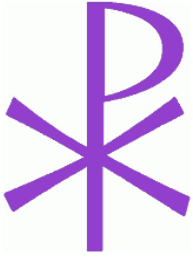


W elcome to W orship
St. Luke's E vangelical
Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 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
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: *JoLynn Stewart*
Acolyte: *Avery Wymer*
Ushers: *Hank Matthes, Zach Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

March Altar Candles: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*
March Bulletins: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*
March Newsletter: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*



Lenten Wednesdays Bible Study

In-person and online every Wednesday at St. Luke's, March 22, 29, and April 5 @ 6:00pm-Soup, Sandwich, & Dessert Supper (in-person) 7:00pm- Bible Study in-person and online. All are welcome anytime!

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 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.*

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, “Jesus, Son of God.” When you exhale, pray, “have mercy on me.”

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: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.

ALL: Most merciful God, I confess that I am captive to sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you

with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbors as you have loved me. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me; renew me; and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Leader: Hear these words and believe in their power: Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9; James 5:16

***GATHERING HYMN #339**

CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

***KYRIE**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 120

***GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

Reader: The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on El-ee-ab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his

appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called A-been-a-dab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Sham-mah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Reader: for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly,¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 125



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 9:6-7; 28-41

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John, chapter 9. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Jesus spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over a blind man's eyes.⁷ He told the blind man, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

²⁸ When Pharisees in the synagogue saw that the blind man had sight, they cursed him and said, "You are this man Jesus' disciple, but we are disciples of Moses!"²⁹ We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from."

³⁰ "Why, that's very strange!" the man replied. "He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know where he comes from?"³¹ We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his

will. ³² Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it."

³⁴ "You were born a total sinner!" the Pharisees answered. "Are you trying to teach us?" And they threw him out of the synagogue.

³⁵ When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

³⁷ "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!"

³⁸ "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

³⁹ Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?"

⁴¹ "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see."

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

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 into hell. 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 live everlasting. Amen

THE MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY #779** AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Harry, Julie, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Eloise, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Jack, Gloria, Rex, Gerald, 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.

.....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**



GOD NOURISHES US

THE TABLE PRAYER

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **ALL: Amen**

THE EXHORTATION

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 133

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: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of the Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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



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, 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.

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

* HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

VERSE 1

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'O Lord, Now Let Your Servant'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'I O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace, for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace: a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill. the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.'

I O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

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. Jesus' story is my story. When I was baptized in Christ Jesus, I was buried with him into his death. As Christ was raised from the dead, I, too, might live a new life. By removing my sins, you give me strength to forgive myself and to forgive those who have offended and sinned against me. Amen.

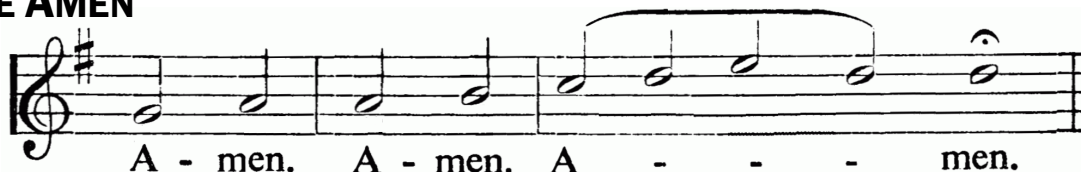
GOD SENDS US

* BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

We are sent to serve others.

* THE AMEN



* SENDING HYMN #597

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

* 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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"*Christ, the Life of All the Living*" TEXT: Ernst Christopher Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

"*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*" TEXT: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1857-1924, alt.

"*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*" TEXT: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

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Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday @ 7 p.m. - Good Friday @ 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Breakfast 9 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship @ 10:15 a.m. 13



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for
Easter Sunday, April 9!

Traditional Single



Stem Easter Lily: \$12.00

QUANTITY: _____

Hyacinths: \$12.00



QUANTITY WHITE: _____

PINK: _____

BLUE: _____

Yellow Daffodils: \$12.00



QUANTITY: _____

Tulips: \$12.00



QUANTITY RED: _____

PINK: _____

YELLOW: _____

PURPLE: _____

WHITE: _____

PLEASE PRINT

Given by: _____

In loving memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Other: _____

Flower color choices may change due to availability.

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, March 26

Please indicate the quantity of your selections and designation information on this order form. Order forms (with payment) may be dropped off or mailed to the church. Please put "Easter Flowers" in the check memo. Thank you!





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 God's blessings on Ryan Bullock who is now cancer free. Ryan is a nephew of Carol Williams. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Steve Pritts, Janet Holloway, Brittany Vanaman, 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: Beth Johnson, Gerald Leitch, Patty Webb, Cheryl, Isabella Miller, A.J., Frank Strausbaugh, Bill Bankey, Mike Gorsline, Mavery Breece, Caroline, Mike Lerma, Ethan, Tom Szor, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Sally Eggleston, Catherine Pritts, Ja-nét Moske.

GRIEVING: the family of Paige Jacobs, who passed away on March 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, 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.

North Baltimore Food Pantry March requested donations



include: canned fruits and vegetables.

With the ending of the SAP Program, that was instituted during Covid-19, the food pantry is going to need more donations than ever before. Your help is needed.

Ushers to return to worship

At its meeting on March 12, the Church Council voted to begin receiving the offering during worship after Easter. We are in need of more folks to add to our list of current ushers. We would like to have 4 ushers each Sunday. If you are willing to participate in worship by serving as an usher, please notify the church office @ 419-257-3253 or stlukesnb@gmail.com. WE NEED YOU!



Bulletins+Candles+Newsletters



Thank you to all who helped to support the work of the church through gifts to our Special Fund. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2023 are posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Also, the opportunity to sign up to provide flowers to the glory of God for our worship services. Thank you for sharing your blessings.

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

We Love to Tell the Story

April 15

9:00am to 1:00pm.

Spring Conference

- a light breakfast
- a short worship service led by Pr. Art Wilde
- Kaitlyn Kniss— Women's Resource Center's work in Hancock County
- all followed by a lunch and fun!

In-Kind donation of diapers requested

RSVP to Barb Larick
419-422-0499 (home)
419-722-3682 (cell/text)

By April 11th

First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln St.
Findlay OH

Sponsored by:  THRIVENT
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God's Eyes Are Not Our Eyes

One heresy in the early church was called Donatism. The Donatists held that the sacraments were only efficacious if presided over by priests who were sinless. It didn't take the church long to realize that if it held to this policy there would be no sacraments for anyone. So if the gospel can be proclaimed through the preaching of a sinner, then we must allow for the possibility that God's healing may be accomplished through extraordinary means. God chooses a boy too young to be taken seriously to anoint as one chosen to lead Israel. When the prophet Samuel is sent by God to find the new king who will replace Saul, Samuel goes through a long line of all Jesse's tall, strapping, competent-looking sons of appropriate age. When none of them are chosen, finally Jesse sends for young David. All of the obvious-to-us choices were declined in favor of a boy. What we may see as authoritative, respectable, and trustworthy may not always align with God. Today's first reading reminds us that "the LORD does not see as mortals see" (1 Sam. 16:7).

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

The Lord

doesn't see things the way you see them

people judge by outward
appearance

The Lord looks at the



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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1