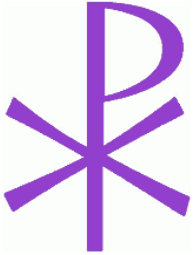


Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 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: *Carl Lieser*
Prayer Leader: *Carl Lieser*
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*
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*

The flowers are given
by Jen Carter in
celebration of her mom's
birthday on March 7, and
her dad's birthday on
March 9.

North Baltimore Food Pantry March requested donations include: canned fruits and vegetables.

Lenten Wednesdays Bible Study

In-person and online every Wednesday at St. Luke's, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 @ 6:00pm-Soup, Sandwich, & Dessert Supper (in-person) 7:00pm-Bible Study in-person and online. Pick up a copy of the Bible Study on the Information Table today.

Order of Worship

Second Sunday in Lent – March 5, 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 #660**

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

***KYRIE**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 120

***GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

GENESIS 12:1-4A

Reader: The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

Reader: Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? ² If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to

boast about. But that was not God's way. ³For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

⁴When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. ⁵But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

¹³Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. ¹⁴If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. ¹⁵For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

¹⁶So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. ¹⁷That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

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 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John, chapter 3. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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 #515**

BREAK NOW THE BREAD OF LIFE

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, 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.

.....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

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.

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

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 treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the verse. The lyrics are: '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.'

1 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.

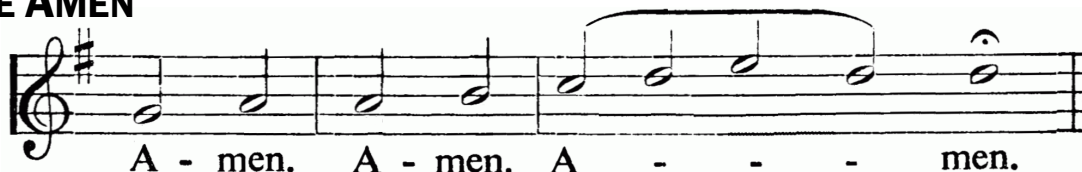
GOD SENDS US

* BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

We are sent to serve others.

* THE AMEN



* SENDING HYMN #335

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

* 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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"*Break Now the Bread of Life*" TEXT: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt. Music: William F. Sherman, 1826-1888

"*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*" TEXT: Fanny j. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

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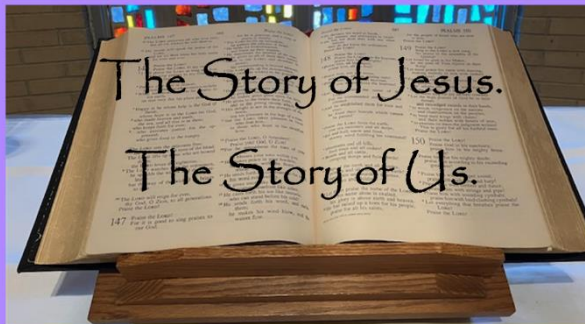


Good News†Amen!

The Good News†Amen Team has once again accepted the opportunity to reach out and share the love of Jesus through the Kairos Prison Ministry. You are invited to join us to bake cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Allen/Oakwood Correctional Institution in Lima, Ohio. The cookies are needed by March 15, so we will gather on Sunday, March 12, following worship, to bake and package cookies. We will purchase the ingredients and the packaging supplies. If you are unable to come and help bake, financial donations are welcome. If you wish to bake cookies at home, there are specific guidelines to follow. Please call the church office or stop by and pick up a flyer with the details. Sandwiches and beverages will be provided. Please join us for fellowship, food, and service on March 12.

SPRING CLOCKS FORWARD MARCH 12

Lenten Bible Study on Wednesdays
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
North Baltimore



6:00 p.m. - soup supper (in person)

7:00 p.m. - dessert and Bible Study
(in person and on Facebook)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

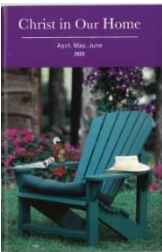


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DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® by March 31st.



Christ in Our Home

The April – June issue of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional is here and can be found on the information table at the church. Please come and pick one up during office hours or call and Dana will mail one to you. Blessings.

Dear friends,

A year ago we watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians fled their homes to find safety in neighboring countries — and many were welcomed by our partners in the region. **Your extraordinary generosity enabled Lutheran Disaster Response to accompany our neighbors in Eastern Europe immediately.**

As the war continues, so does our work. Our partners are constantly adapting to new phases of refugee assistance. Providing food, clothing and a warm place to rest has now evolved into community integration — finding people jobs, enrolling children in school and securing permanent housing for refugees.

Amid grief and hardship, God grants us the strength to see moments of hope. It's in these moments that I am most thankful for your commitment to stand with our neighbors in Eastern Europe. With gratitude - The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Daniel Rift

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 the mission and ministry of the Women of the ELCA. 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, 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.

Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch questions, like field mice, nooks and crannies of our are utilitarian: Did someone Are the kids' lunches packed to get to the grocery store this warning, the questions morph: from this illness? Why are my days? Does Jesus really care point we know that night has uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day way.



out on the bedroom wall, begin to emerge from the mind. At first, the questions let the dog out this evening? for school? When am I going week? And then, without Is Grandma going to recover prayers so short these about us—about me? At this truly descended. Truth

Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105
419-257-3253 StLukesNB@gmail.com
[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)