

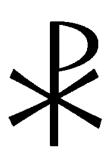
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ is <mark>Risen</mark>, indeed! Al<mark>lelui</mark>a!

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 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: <u>http://www.stlukesnb.org</u> eMail: <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u> Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506

Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, <u>WELCOME</u> 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 & Prayer Leader: Pam Van Mooy Acolyte: Hannah Hagemyer Ushers: Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney Videographer: Beth Williams

To the Glory of God

May Altar Candles: *Carol Williams* May Bulletins: <u>available for sign-up</u> May Newsletter: <u>available for sign-up</u>





The Altar flowers are given by Arica & Matt Matthes in honor of Eloise's birthday tomorrow. Happy birthday!

North Baltimore Food Pantry May requested donations include: laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper.

Order of Morship

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 21, 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. <u>Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their</u>

<u>guidelines.</u>

GOD GATHERS US

GREETING

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."

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

<u>Leader</u>: Blessed be the \bigstar One God who, like a farmer, plants the seeds of wisdom, faith, and joy in our hearts, so that we may reap a harvest of new life.

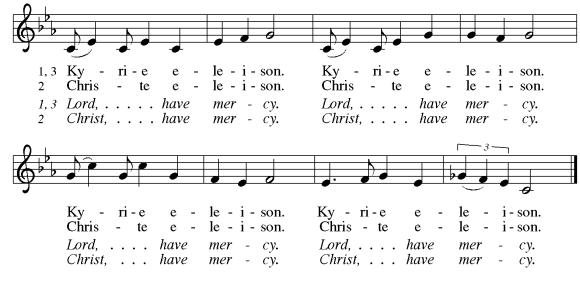
ALL: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself and the truth is not in me. However, if I confess my sins, you are faithful and just. Forgive me. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that I 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.



RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD



***KYRIE HYMN #151**

*GLORY TO GOD

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

<u>Reader:</u> So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. ¹³ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying.

Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). ¹⁴ They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

<u>Reader:</u> Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of

ACTS 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!

⁶⁻⁷ So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

⁸⁻¹¹ Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does.

<u>Reader:</u> Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**



Leader: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. He prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

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

Leader: After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

<u>Leader</u>: Martin Luther's small catechism reminds us of our commitment to faith. We believe in the promises of the Lord's prayer and the 10 commandments:

ALL: I will love God with all my heart soul and strength; and I will love my neighbor as I have been loved by God.
I will help and support others in all of life's needs.
I will talk about others in the best possible light.
I will forgive myself and others just as God forgives me.
I will care for and preserve the earth and all its abundance, and
I will share its resources with others.
I will not hoard what I don't need;
I will let go of my regrets;
and I will grow in the fruits of the Spirit.

THE MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY #389** CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Janet, Jim, Harry, Julie, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Jack, Rex, Susan, Daryl, Beth, Gerald, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Chelsea, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Catherine, Ja-nét, Ed, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Betty, Don, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Cindy, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Jayne, Ed, Barb, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, and Dan.

......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

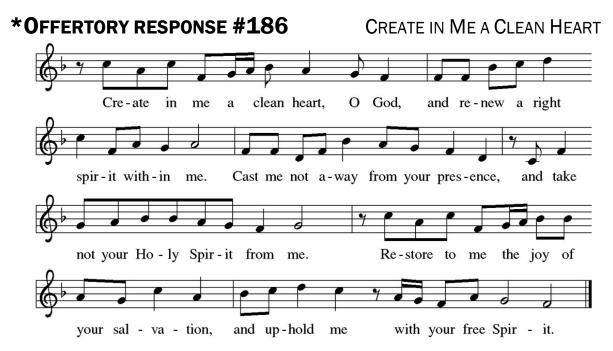


Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY





***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Ever-living God, fill us with the hope and joy of the resurrection. With each and all our gifts, bless us anew to bring your new life to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GOD NOURISHES US

THE TABLE PRAYER

Leader: God of all creation, all you have made is good.

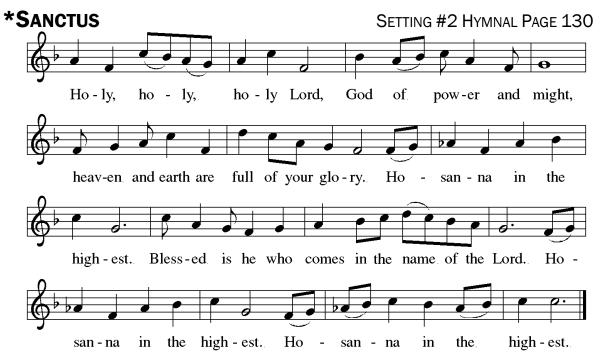
ALL: Your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish me with these gifts. Use me and what I have gathered to feed the world with your love, through the feast of love and bread of life, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE EXHORTATION

<u>Leader</u>: 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 is the Lord, the God of the universe. God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise the Lord in the heights above. Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, and stormy winds. Praise the Lord, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for they were created. Psalm 148

<u>Leader</u>: 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....



***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.

<u>Leader</u>: 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: We proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Sin is conquered! Death is defeated! Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

<u>Leader</u>: God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine

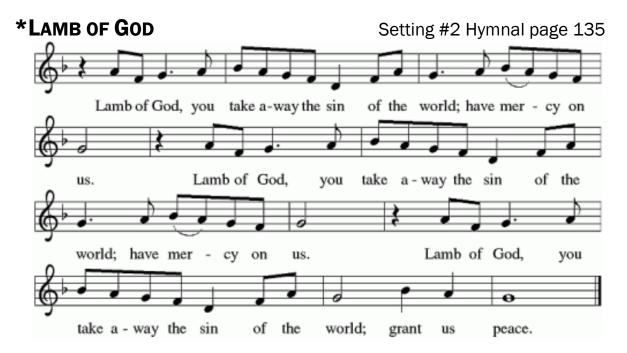
ALL: Grace this table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

***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 seed that pierces the soil with new life, your Spirit breaks through the fear and resentments that harden my heart. 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.





DISTRIBUTION

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

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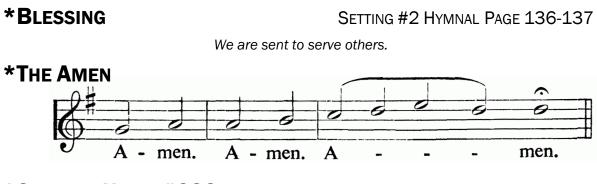


***PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

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



*Sending Hymn #623

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

*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 Information Table in the Narthex.

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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.

<u>WE GIVE THANKS</u>: for all graduates and the teachers, professors, mentors, parents and others who have guided them throughout the years. Congratulations. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Janet Holloway, Jim Wymer, Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams, Rex McCarty.

<u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS</u>: Susan Miller, Daryl Miller, Beth Johnson, Gerald Leitch, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Catherine Pritts.

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.

<u>COMPANION CHURCH</u>: Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS: all ministries of the ELCA (<u>E</u>vangelical <u>L</u>utheran <u>C</u>hurch in <u>A</u>merica), our presiding <u>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</u>, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the NWOS (<u>N</u>orthwestern <u>O</u>hio <u>Synod</u>), <u>Bishop Daniel Beaudoin</u>, 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.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VERY BUSY SCHEDULE

July is Vacation Bible School Month!!

St. John's Lutheran Adult VBS July 16-20 6-8 p.m. Theme "Sharing our Story"

St. Luke's Lutheran "Stellar" VBS July 23-27 5:30-8:00 including dinner

McComb Community "Stellar" VBS will be 5 Sunday evenings **July 23, 30, August 6, 13, and 20,** from 5:30-8:00 including dinner

Just as God sent Jesus to teach his disciples and Jesus sent the disciples to teach the people, we are now sent to teach our neighbors. Don't wait to be asked, step up and seek out where you can help spread God's word through VBS.



<u>Sermon Notes</u>

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

To God's beloved church in the ELCA,

More than 800 members of the ELCA responded to listening sessions wondering about the future of rostered ministry. Continue the conversation in virtual hearings in June.

In March 2022 a diverse group was appointed to examine and improve the candidacy process that equips rostered ministers for service in our church. This team is the <u>Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group</u> (CLDWG.)

In the last year we have spent much of our time hosting virtual and in-person listening sessions to learn the needs of our church. We also completed a survey for those excluded by the candidacy process. As we move forward, the working group is prioritizing feedback from our church.

All members of the ELCA are invited to hearings at which the working group will share its findings. There will also be an opportunity for response. More details will be shared at the hearings; you can find an executive summary of the team's work <u>here</u>.

The hearings will be hosted <u>via Zoom</u>. Please mark your calendars for one of the following:

- June 20, 7 p.m. Eastern/6 p.m. Central/5 p.m. Mountain/4 p.m. Pacific
- June 22, 1 p.m. Eastern/12 p.m. Central/11 a.m. Mountain/10 a.m. Pacific
- June 26, 2 p.m. Eastern/1 p.m. Central/12 p.m. Mountain/11 a.m. Pacific
- June 28, 10 p.m. Eastern/9 p.m. Central/8 p.m. Mountain/7 p.m. Pacific

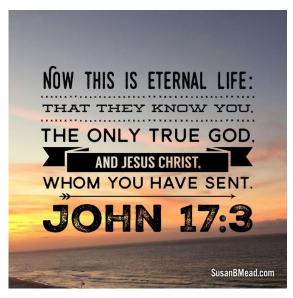
Thank you for your prayers for this group as we seek to increase proclamation of the gospel.

Grace and peace, The Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group Bishop Susan Candea, chair

https://elca.org/FORMATION

Overhearing Jesus

At the ascension we, like the disciples in today's reading in Acts, are left looking at the sky. But in the High Priestly Prayer (John 17), Jesus brings us back to earth. In the prayer he speaks not only from the perspective of the risen and ascended one, but as the Word of God, now made flesh. The prayer anticipates the accomplishments of this Word, which does not



return empty (Isa. 55:11), namely in the fulfillment of the "hour" of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. It is as if Jesus has already ascended "to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (John 20:17), and has returned to tell us something vital.

As we overhear Jesus, we learn that God's character and motive are identical to those of Jesus, who has now, fully and completely, "made God's name known." We no longer have to speculate about the nature of God. God's purposes and love are

made known in Jesus. But we also learn about ourselves. Jesus' prayer frequently mentions the "world"—the world at once hostile to God and God's anointed, and yet also beloved of God (John 3:16). With Jesus' commissioning today we have our work to do, to make God known in and through Christ Jesus. The Living One works through us as "words within the world," who no longer seek meaning among the dead, but are empowered to make known the vibrant, new reality of Easter.

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105 419-257-3253 <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u> Church Office Hours M-F 9-1