Welcome to Worship St. Luke's Evangelical

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church



July 23, 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: <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, **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 and Prayer Leader: Janet Goldner

Acolyte: Avery Wymer

Ushers: JoLynn & Don Stewart Videographer: Beth Williams

To the Glory of God

July Altar Candles: Beth & Clay McCartney July Bulletins: Beth & Clay McCartney July Newsletter: Beth & Clay McCartney



An Invitation – St. John's invites you to a tie knot quilting party for Lutheran World Relief and other local charitable organizations. It would be helpful if you could bring a pair of good scissors and a large eyed needle. Tuesday, July 25 @ 9a.m.



Order of Worship

Sunday, July 23, 2023

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol

make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

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

<u>Leader</u>: 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 ♣ 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.

<u>Leader</u>: 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 #504

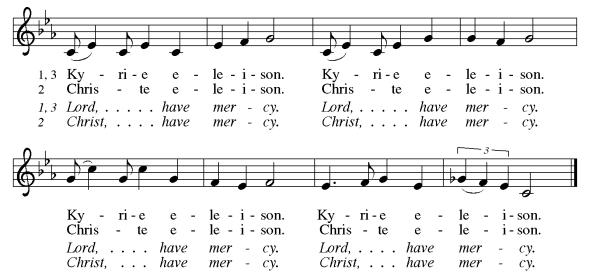
A MIGHT FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

<u>Leader</u>: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with you all.

ALL: and also with you.

***KYRIE HYMN #151**



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: O God our rock, you offer us a covenant of mercy, and you provide the foundation of our lives. Ground us in your word, and strengthen our resolve to be your disciples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

SOLOMON 12:13, 16-19

<u>Reader</u>: For neither is there any god besides you whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly, ¹⁶ for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.

¹⁷ For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. ¹⁸ Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge fairly, and with great forbearance you govern us, for you have power to act whenever you choose.

¹⁹ Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 86:11-17

<u>Reader</u>: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

ALL: 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

<u>Reader</u>: ¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

ALL: ¹⁴ O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

<u>Reader</u>: ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

ALL: ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

<u>Reader</u>: ¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

ROMANS 8:14, 18-25

Reader: All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN #172



*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. In each of us, we have both the weeds of sinfulness and wheat for faithfulness. In confession, we humbly place our weeds at the foot of the cross. From the Lord's Table, we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

<u>Leader</u>: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 13. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<u>Leader</u>: Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

- ²⁷ "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?'
- ²⁸ "An enemy has done this!" the farmer exclaimed.
- "'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked.
- ²⁹ "'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'"

- ³⁶ [After telling the story], Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field."
- ³⁷ Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.
- ⁴⁰ "Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

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 to the dead. 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 life everlasting. Amen

THE MESSAGE

*HYMN OF THE DAY #705

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

<u>Prayer Leader</u>: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*Prayer Song Hymn #752

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



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: Hears 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, Colton, Shirley, Dolores, Susan, Darrell, Beth, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Chelsea, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Catherine, 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.

*Prayer Song Hymn #752 Invitation for Offerings

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

OFFERTORY

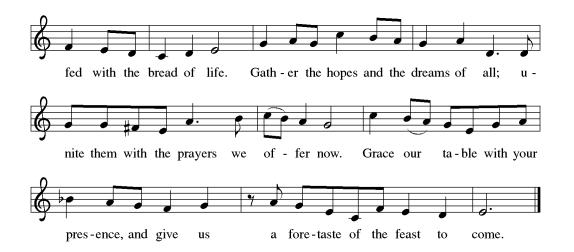
*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #182 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

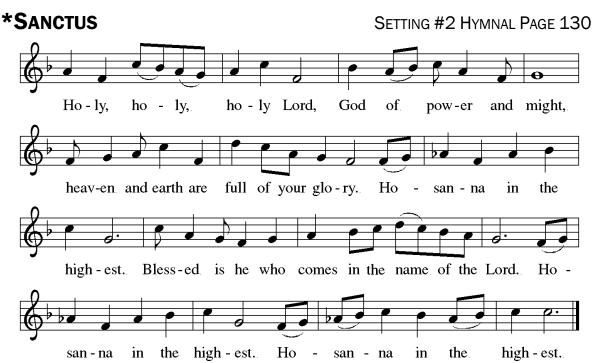
SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 133

<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

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

*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



*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. Your Spirit fills my spirit, allowing it to bloom like a flower in spring. 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

Verse 1



*Prayer of Absolution

Leader: Please join me in the absolution,

ALL: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim

your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

In the name of the Father, \(\mathbb{H}\) Son, and Holy Spirit.

*THE AMEN



*SENDING HYMN # 697

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

*DISMISSAL

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 137

We are sent to serve others.

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.

VBS begins this evening. Hope to see YOU here!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICE HOURS WILL CHANGE TO 12:00 NOON TO 5:00 P.M. FROM MONDAY, JULY 24 THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 27, FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.

DANA WILL BE ON VACATION FROM FRIDAY, JULY 28 THROUGH TUESDAY, AUGUST 1; IN THE OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, AUGUST 2 AND 3, AND OUT OF THE OFFICE ON AUGUST 4,

THANK YOU!



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

do God's work in our communities and our world. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Pam Van Mooy, 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.

<u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS</u>: Keven Bickle, Colton, Shirley Hollowell, Dolores Bucher, Beth Johnson, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

GRIEVING: the family of **Shirley Miles** who passed away on July 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.

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

<u>WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS</u>: all ministries of the ELCA (<u>E</u>vangelical <u>Lutheran Church in America</u>), our presiding <u>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</u>, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the <u>NWOS</u> (<u>Northwestern Ohio Synod</u>), <u>Bishop Daniel Beaudoin</u>, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

<u>THE WORLD</u>: 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.



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"Kyrie" TEXT: Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927 Music: 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" Text: Caribbean Traditional; arr. Nark Sedio, b. 1954 Arr. ©1995 Augsburg Fortress

"God of Grace and God of Glory" Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969 Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Text: Ken Medema, by. 1943 MUSIC: Ken Medmema Text and Music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" Text: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" TEXT: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis Music: Finnihsh folk tune; arr. hymnal version Text© 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee" TEXT: North American traditional Music: North American traditional

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126th Anniversary

Tuesday, July 25th is the 126th Anniversary of this congregation. Congratulations! Join us on Sunday, July 30, following worship for cake and beverages.

From the ELCA Seeds Monthly

Throughout the summer, congregations, ministries, synods and other organizations are encouraged to read a book by a Native author and discuss it together. The online bookshop <u>Native Reads</u> lists books by Native authors. Find a book at <u>bookshop.org/shop/nativereads</u>.



Do you have any thoughts or ideas on how we might serve God and our neighbors this day in September? Submit your ideas to the church office @ 419-257-3253 or <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u>.

Pates to Remember

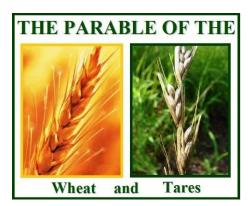
The Central Conference of the NWOS Women will host their Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in North Baltimore.

NWOS Women's Gathering will be held on October 27-28, 2023, at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center in Findlay, Ohio.

Sermon Notes

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.

Judgment and Mercy



Matthew's gospel knows little compromise: sheep or goats, wheat or weeds, good or evil. Finding the good news of God's love for all people, for all creation, can be a challenge in this book. Today's gospel is no exception. Jesus interprets a parable for the disciples; he announces that all evildoers will be thrown into the furnace of fire, while the righteous will shine like the sun. The "Son of Man" will judge the world. Matthew's phrase "for the kingdom of

heaven may be compared to ..." occurs here for the first time in this gospel. Jesus' parable is a genuine metaphor—it is best viewed as a whole with no point-by-point comparison. The kingdom of believers has the same potential as those of the world to do good and to do evil. Jesus' allegorical interpretation encourages believers to strive for righteousness, and emphasizes God as judge.

St. Paul, however, in his letter to the church at Rome focuses on God as merciful judge. He proclaims that all creation will be freed from decay and receive redemption. Paul reminds us our hope lies with God, our parent through a spirit of adoption. This dichotomous picture of God as judge and giver of mercy began with last Sunday's texts and evidences itself in readings from Romans and Matthew across the next four Sundays. In some cases the God of mercy is highlighted in Paul's letter, at other times in the gospel. This good news, however, is always present!

The exercise of judgment and mercy reflects God's emphasis on justice over fairness. A fair God condemns those who do evil. A just God moves beyond fairness to justice, peace, and reconciliation. As evil doers, sinners, one and all, we are grateful for God's justice towards us and all people.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1