

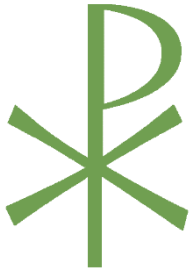
Welcome to Worship

St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



 *Rally Day* 

September 10, 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>  
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[Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506](tel: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.*

## **Join us following worship for a Rally Day Picnic Celebration!!**

### **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*  
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*  
Ushers: *Bryant Matthew, Matt Matthes*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **To the Glory of God**

September Altar Candles: *available for sign-up*  
September Bulletins: *available for sign-up*  
September Newsletter: *available for sign-up*

**North Baltimore Food Pantry September** requested donations include: hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, and tooth paste. Thank you for your continued support.



**Choir** rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 17 @ 9:30 a.m. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

# Order of Worship

Sunday, September 10, 2023

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

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### 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

Leader: 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.**

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

## STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, As sol - diers of the cross,  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;  
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Stand in his strength a - lone;  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, The strife will not be long;



Lift high his roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.  
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this his glo - rious day.  
The arm of flesh will fail you, You dare not trust your own.  
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my he shall lead,  
Let all his faith - ful serve him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see,



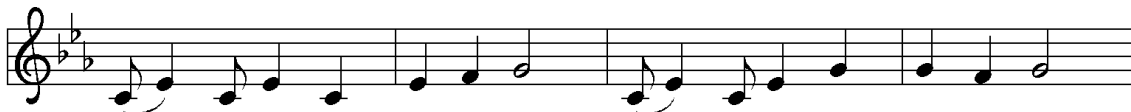
Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger, And strength to strength op - pose.  
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.  
And with the King of glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

## \*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ..... with you all.

**ALL: and also with you.**

## \*KYRIE HYMN #151



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	<i>Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>	<i>Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>
2	<i>Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>	<i>Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
<i>Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>	<i>Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>
<i>Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>	<i>Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.</i>

## \*GLORY TO GOD

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

## \*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**

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# GOD SPEAKS TO US

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## PROPHETIC READING

EZEKIEL 33:7-11

Reader: So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning

from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup> Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

## **PSALM READING**

*(responsively)*

PSALM 119:33-40

Reader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

**ALL: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

Reader: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

**ALL: Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.**

Reader: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me according to your word.

**ALL: Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.**

Reader: Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

**ALL: See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness, be gracious to me.**

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

## DISCIPLESHIP READING

ROMANS 13:8-10

READER: Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN #172



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## \*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 18:15-20

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 18. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church,

and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 #661**

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

### **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.





## \*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: Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Ron, Rick, Mike, Janet, Harry, Julie, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Mary Ann, Kevin, Colton, Shirley, Dolores, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Jayne, Ed, Jeff, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

## \*PRAYER SONG HYMN #752

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

### INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

### 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



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*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

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 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*

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,  
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: We proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Leader: 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

#### O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



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:** 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.

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## GOD SENDS US

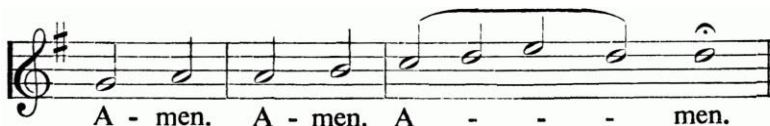
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### \*BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

## \*THE AMEN



## \*SENDING HYMN #623

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

## \*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.

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“I Love to Tell the Story” TEXT: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” TEXT: Ken Medema, by. 1943 Music: Ken Medema 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: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version TEXT© 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778 Music: Thomas Hastings, 784-1872

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*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

Deuteronomy 6:5



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 opportunities to celebrate the gifts from God with family and friends. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Ron Bean, Rick Van Mooy, Mike Wheeler, Janet Holloway, Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Mary Ann Webb, Keven Bickle, Colton, Shirley Hollowell, Dolores Bucher, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**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.

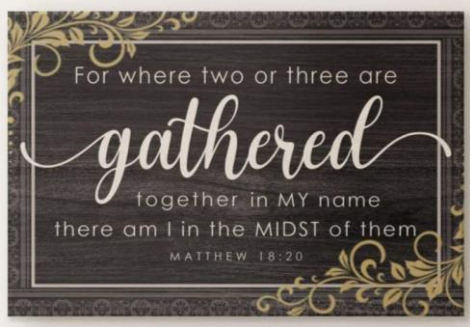
**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**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.



# Called to Community

Jesus says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ’s resurrection and



ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. The question is as relevant today as it was for the disciples and the first Christians: how do we live together, work together, as the body of Christ? We have been saved by grace, liberated by God’s love to love

one another. What does it mean for us and for our community to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 13:14) and to clothe ourselves in love?

We keep asking these questions because the way we gather as Christians continues to be profoundly countercultural. We do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to continue to gather if conflict arises, if uncomfortable issues are raised, or if “the way it’s always been” begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. In scripture we can find practical guidance for gathering through good and hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ’s body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals; all the commandments are fulfilled in this call to neighbor-love (Rom. 13:9).

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1