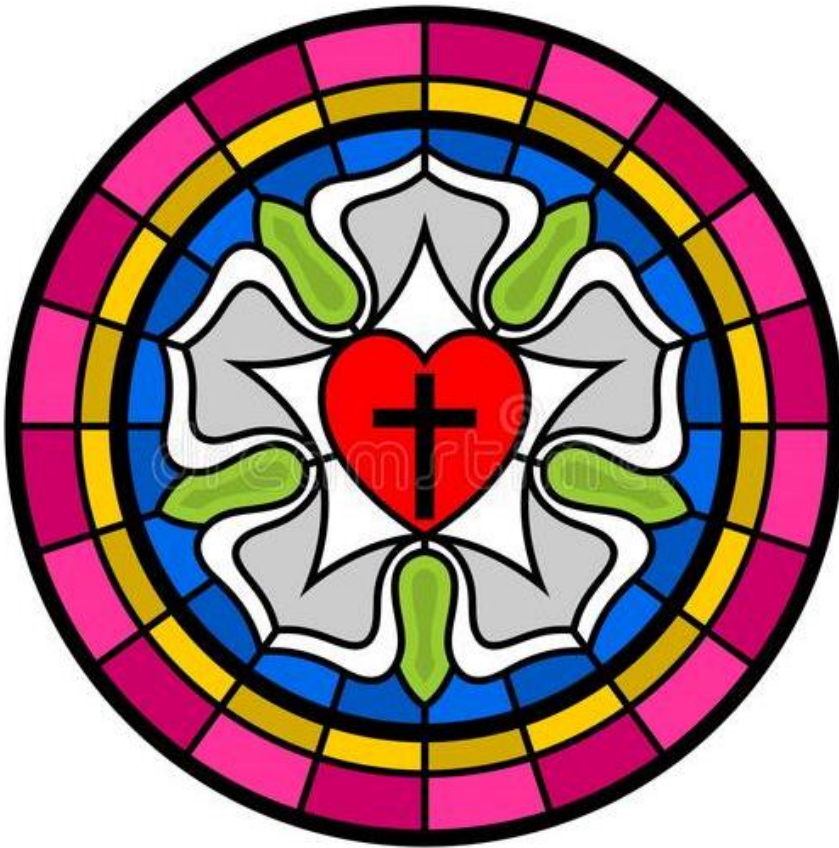


Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



January 21, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: StLukesNB@gmail.com

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*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*

Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*

Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*

Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

January Candles: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

January Bulletins: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

January Newsletter: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

Choir rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime.

Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

North Baltimore Food Pantry January requested donations include: canned fruits, vegies and soups. Start the new year off right by making a commitment to donate to the food pantry every month. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community mission.

Order of Worship

Sunday, January 21, 2024

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.*

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

GOD GATHERS US

GREETING AND 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, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "open my heart."

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Before we can remember,

ALL: God loved us.

Leader: Before we could respond,

ALL: God loved us.

Leader: Before we knew what any of it meant,

ALL: God loved us.

Leader: Still today, on our best and worst days,

ALL: God loves us.

*GATHERING HYMN #300

THE FIRST NOEL

*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

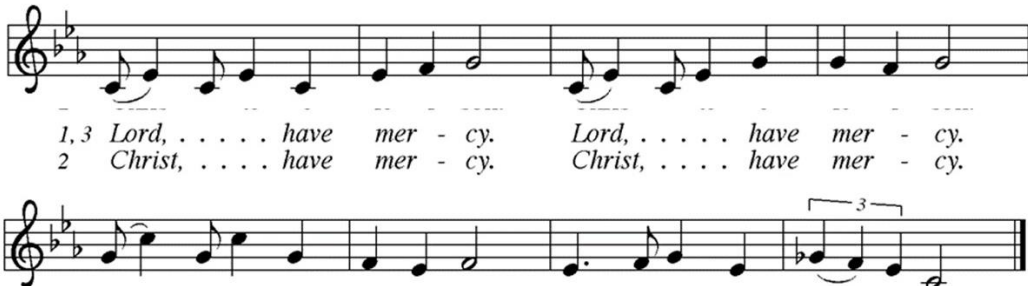
Leader: God, our rock and refuge,

ALL: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.


Leader: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

ALL: Amen.

*KYRIE HYMN #151



1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

*CONFESSATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**



*THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece consists of several phrases, each beginning with the words 'This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The final phrase concludes with 'For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.'



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST READING

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

Reader: The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

Psalm 62:5-12

Reader: For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

ALL: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

Reader: In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

ALL: Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

Reader: Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

ALL: Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

Reader: God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

ALL: Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

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

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

Reader: Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3



*GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Mark chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #303

BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS

***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

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: God of grace, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Don, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard, Emelyn, Isabella, Kevin, Shirley, Cheryl, 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, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

***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



***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: May the light of our Lord Jesus Christ shine in you.

ALL: and also in you.

Leader: Let us share the peace and light of our Lord.

Please share God's peace."

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: With grateful hearts let us bring our gifts to God remembering that cheerful giving is not an obligation but a joyful response to the blessings we have received.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
 spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
 your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Gracious Father, the owner of all things, we pause in reverence, acknowledging that everything we possess ultimately belongs to you. We open our hearts to the profound reality that we are only temporary stewards of your eternal treasures. Help us to embrace the responsibility and privilege of managing your blessings with diligence and integrity.

GOD NOURISHES US

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Almighty God, we give you thanks, for by the leading of a star you have revealed your only Son to the world. **ALL: Following him we are led from darkness into his marvelous light.**

Leader: We give you thanks, for a new light has dawned upon the world.

ALL: All the nations are now called out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

Leader: As we remember his birth, life, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith, revealed to us in Christ:


ALL: Christ came to us, the morning star of love.

Christ died, the evening star of salvation.

Christ arose, the eternal star of resurrection.

Christ will come again, the light that leads us to hope.

Leader: As we journey together with Christ, let us join our voices with the faithful of all times and all places:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying

ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying

ALL: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Believing that the light of Christ came into our world and still shines in the darkness, come and take your place at the table where heaven and earth are joined as one.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

DISTRIBUTION



*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

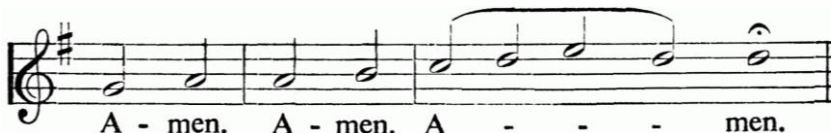
ALL: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

Leader: May God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

*THE AMEN



A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

*SENDING HYMN #315

HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE!

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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**REMINDER** that the church office will be closed on Monday, January 22 through Wednesday, January 24.



**February 14, 2024**

### *Bulletins, Candles, and Newsletters*

The sign-up sheets for your financial support of the Special Fund for 2024 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.



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

**WE GIVE THANKS:** the faithful and generous contributions of members to the ministry of this congregation. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Don Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard Till, Emelyn, Isabella, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**GRIEVING:** Donna Kelley and family following the death of Gene on January 8.

**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, and 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.



# When Saying Yes Requires Saying No

It was one of those thought-for-the-day-calendars you find in your Christmas stocking. The sayings mostly were trite and pithy, but every so often there was a truth worth repeating, for example: “Decide what you want and what you are willing to exchange for it. Set your priorities and go to work.” In other words, if we’re serious, saying yes to one thing often requires saying no to something else.

Jonah—after fleeing from the mission to which God was calling him (and three days and nights in the belly of the fish!)—now says “No!” to his former urges and “Yes!” to God as he sets out as God’s prophet to Nineveh. Paul invites us to say



“No!” to trivial matters and “Yes!” to the things of God that have serious and eternal consequences. Jesus calls the disciples to say “No!” to their boats and nets and families and much of everything else they have known and to say “Yes!” to his “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

We feel a kinship with Jonah’s situation, because he struggles. He runs away from God and only relents after a huge fish vomits him onto a distant shore. The call-response stories of Simon, Andrew, James, and John make it all seem so easy. One little word of invitation from Jesus and these men turn in an instant from fishers to disciples.

But most of us live somewhere in the middle, not resisting God’s call with the vigor of Jonah but certainly responding more slowly and ambiguously than the disciples. So a question for today is: To what is God calling us to say “No!”? Remember, it’s not just the ugly stuff but often good things that must be denied for the sake of following Jesus. And then we must also ask in faith: To what is Jesus inviting us to say “Yes!”?

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)