

W elcome to W orship  
St. Luke's E vangelical  
Lutheran C hurch



January 28, 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](mailto: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: *SAM Bob Fett*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Olivia Matthes*

Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*

Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

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, veggies 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 28, 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.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### 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: We gather to hear God speak to us today.

**ALL: We will listen to the word of God.**

Leader: God of light, speak to us in the holy scriptures.

**ALL: We will listen to the word of God.**

Leader: God of light, speak to us through the prophets of today.

**ALL: We will listen to the word of God.**

Leader: God of light, speak to us through the events of our daily lives.

**ALL: We will listen to the word of God.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #521

O DAY OF REST AND GLADNESS

### \*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins to God, who knows our hearts and has promised to provide all the healing, love, and forgiveness we need.

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. 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.

### \*CONFESSIONAL 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.  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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## GOD SPEAKS TO US

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### FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

Reader: [Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

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

### CHOIR ANTHEM

EVERLASTING GOD

### PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

Psalm 111

Reader: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**ALL: Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

Reader: Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

**ALL: You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

Reader: You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

**ALL: You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

Reader: The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

**ALL: They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

Reader: You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**ALL: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

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

## **SECOND READING**

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

Reader: Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father,



from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:21-28

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*



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: Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY #310**

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

### **\*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: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

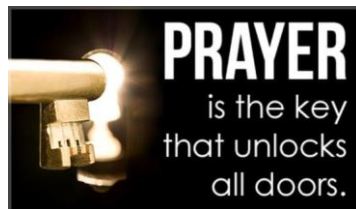
We pray for We pray for Don, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Tony, Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard, Emelyn, Isabella, Kevin, Shirley, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, 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 God.

*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 God, our possessions are temporary. True wealth lies in our relationship with you. We give today, fully aware that our giving is an expression of our love, obedience and devotion to you. Amen.

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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## 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:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, 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." The score ends with a double bar line.

## 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 - jice 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: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In the bread and cup you open heaven to us. Raise us to new life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

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# GOD SENDS US

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## \*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



## \*SENDING HYMN #820

O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR

## \*DISMISSAL

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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“*Kyrie*” TEXT: Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927 Music: 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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“*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*” TEXT: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt. Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

“*Create In Me a Clean Heart*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“*Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 TEXT AND MUSIC © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress

“*O Savior, Precious Savior*” TEXT: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879 Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

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“Faithfulness is not doing something right once but doing something right over and over and over and over.”

— Joyce Meyer



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 our partnership with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of McComb. 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:** Tony Matthes, 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.

**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.



## Rules or Relationship?

Do you want to be right, or do you want to have a relationship? When a teenager spends \$200 on the world's coolest sunglasses is it the time to comment on the foolishness of the purchase or to simply smile and nod? May the people of Corinth eat meat sacrificed to idols? Paul seems to suggest that it does not really matter where the meat comes from. What matters is how the people you care about feel about that meat. Will it challenge their faith? Will it become a stumbling block to the weak? Do you want to be right, or do you want to have a relationship?

This theme continues in the gospel. The laws prohibiting work on the sabbath carry deep meaning for many people of faith, and yet on this sabbath Jesus rebukes an unclean spirit and frees a man. Jesus chooses to care for the man and to free him, rather than worry over the details of the law. In this instance Jesus is not condemned for his choice, as he will be later. But his fame begins to spread throughout the region. That too will later prove dangerous, yet it is also a sign of the evangelical nature of the faith. This is not a private faith, held closely and kept hidden. Rather it is an outgoing faith spread from person to person throughout the world.

To this day people continue to place barriers and restrictions on the faith. Congregations do this in intentional ways, for example, by setting a minimum age for receiving holy communion. The benefits of these restrictions can be debated, but at least they are chosen intentionally. Churches also create unintentional barriers. Consider the clothes people wear to church each Sunday. Are many people wearing suits and ties? Do you see blue jeans? Do people wear shorts in the summer? What are some of the ways people might be kept from a relationship with Jesus by the barriers we create?



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