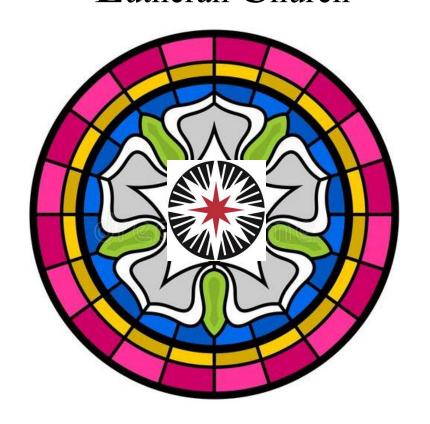
# Pelcome to Porship St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Epiphany of Our Lord January 7, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: All the People

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton* Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania* 

Web Page: <a href="http://www.stlukesnb.org">http://www.stlukesnb.org</a>

eMail: <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u> 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: *Tracey Pritts* 

Acolyte: Hannah Hagemyer

Ushers: Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes

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

The flowers are given by Tiffany & Tom Mika in celebration and honor

of the new year. Happy 2024!

**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.

# Order of Morship

# Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2024

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol  $\, \Xi \,$  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

<u>Leader</u>: Come, let us worship the Lord, and consider what wondrous things God has done:

ALL: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: The people who lived in darkness have seen a glorious light!

ALL: God's light shatters the darkness that covers the world.

Leader: We, like the Magi, search for the one who was promised.

ALL: We seek our Savior, so that we might follow him in faith.

<u>Leader</u>: Come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous

things!

ALL: We celebrate the light of God's love in our lives.

\*GATHERING HYMN #275

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

#### AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

<u>Leader</u>: Blessed be the holy Trinity, 

one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

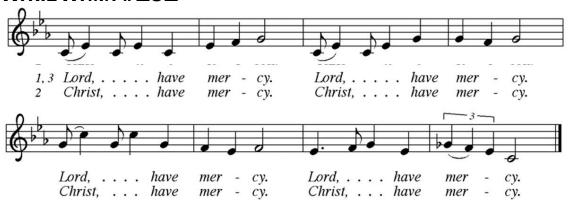
Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: God of life,

ALL: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

#### **\*KYRIE HYMN #151**

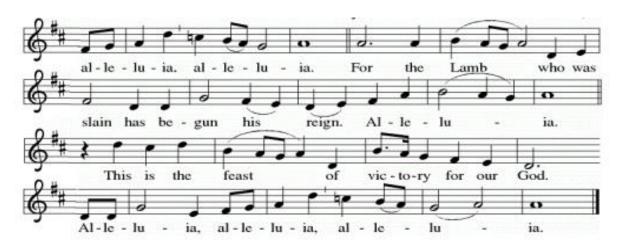


#### \*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

<u>Leader</u>: 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





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Installation of Church Council Members

<u>Leader</u>: The following persons have been called to positions of leadership to serve on the Church Council of this congregation: Suzanne Bucher, Janet Goldner, Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes, Clay McCartney, Tracey Pritts, and Jo Lynn Stewart.

Leader: St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12:

ALL: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit that gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all."

<u>Leader</u>: You have been called to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. Will you see that the words and actions of this household of faith bear witness to God?

Council Members: Yes, with God's help.

<u>Leader</u>: Will you work together with all the members of this congregation to improve our life, harmony, and spiritual heath?

Council Members: Yes, with God's help.

<u>Leader</u>: As the Spirit empowers you, will you be diligent in your specific area of serving, that God be glorified?

Council Members: Yes, with God's help.

<u>Leader</u>: Will you be examples of faith, witnesses of hope, and channels of God's love, participating in the mission of Christ in this congregation, in this community, in the wider church, and in the whole world?

Council Members: Yes, with God's help.

<u>Leader</u>: People of St. Luke's Church, will you support these leaders, called by the Hopy Spirit, and will you share in the ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

#### ALL: Yes, with God's help.

<u>Leader</u>: I now declare the Church Council of this congregation installed for 2024, the Year of Our Lord. God bless us with the Holy Spirit, directing our days and our deeds, that we may be faithful servants and disciples of Christ, in the name of the Father,  $\P$  Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.



# **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

FIRST READING ISAIAH 60:1-6

<u>Reader</u>: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

#### **PSALM READING**

(responsively)

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

<u>Reader</u>: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

ALL: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

<u>Reader</u>: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

ALL: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

<u>Reader</u>: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

# ALL: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

<u>Reader</u>: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

# ALL: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

<u>Reader</u>: May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

# ALL: For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

<u>Reader</u>: He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

# ALL: From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

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

#### **SECOND READING**

**EPHESIANS 3:1-12** 

Reader: This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the

news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3



#### \*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

<u>Leader</u>: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 2. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.** 

<u>Leader</u>: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

#### THE MESSAGE

#### HYMN OF THE DAY #671

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

#### \*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

<u>Prayer Leader</u>: 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

<u>Prayer Leader</u>: Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.** 

We pray for Don, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Jim, 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**

<u>Leader</u>: The hope, peace, joy, love, and light of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: and also with you.

Leader: Let us share the peace of God.

Please share God's peace."

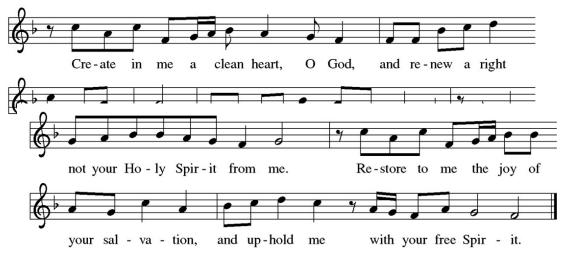
#### **Invitation for Offerings**

<u>Leader</u>: In gratitude for all that we have received from God let us now present our tithes, and offerings for the work and mission of God's church.

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### \*Offertory response #186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord our God, though we do not bring gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Altar today, we bring these gifts, along with our lives, and the fruit of our labors. Accept these offerings as our response to

the faithful blessings of your love and graciousness, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **GOD NOURISHES US**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

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



#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

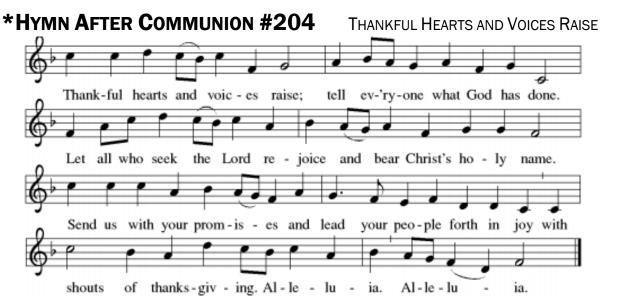
<u>Leader</u>: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying

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.

<u>Leader</u>: Believing that the light of Christ came into our world and still shines in the darkness, come and take your place at the table.

**ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!** 

#### **DISTRIBUTION**



#### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

ALL: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# **GOD SENDS US**

#### \*BLESSING

#### **\*THE AMEN**



\*SENDING HYMN #301

BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS IS THE SKY

#### \*DISMISSAL

<u>Leader</u>: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace and proclaim this good news.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.** 

#### **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.

Please remember to stop by the Information Table and sign the greeting cards, reminding our members and friends that we are thinking about them.

# **NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty JANUARY** requested donations include canned fruits, veggies, and soups.

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Written <u>reports</u> to be included in the **ANNUAL REPORTS** for 2023 are due in the church office no later than <u>January 15, 2024</u>. Electronic form is preferred, but not as important as getting the report in. The 2023 Annual Reports should be available for pick up on January 28, 2024.

#### Christ in Our Home

The January – March issues of the devotional Christ in Our Home is available on the information table in the Narthex at the church. If you would like a copy but can't get over to pick one up, call the church office and we will mail one to you.

## 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.



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# **NWOS 2024**

## The Year of Rest

As we prepare for the new year, we invite you into 2024: The Year of Rest. Time and time again God calls us into rest through scripture. We read stories of Jesus retreating into the hills, journeys being paused, and creation being celebrated with rest.

#### So what does it mean for God's people to engage in rest?

Throughout 2024 we will explore this question, not just through sleep or vacation time, but through little moments each day that nourish and renew us.

Instead of our traditional daily Bible reading guide we invite you to engage in daily rest practices, using the seven types of active rest. By grounding these practices in a weekly Bible verse, we pray this guide will help you discover moments of rest and peace.

January's calendar is on page 4 of the newsletter and on the Information Table in the Narthex. Watch for more to come each month.

Let us say a huge to Beth Williams services and



for video-taping our worship posting them on Facebook each

week. We are seeking some assistants for her so that she can be away when she needs to. If you think this is something you might try, please call the church office and leave a message. Training will be offered. Since Covid and the need to offer this service to our members and friends, it has become a necessary part of our ministry to our families and friends. Please consider helping out. Thank you.

Copies of the January "Good News Letter" can be found on the Information Table in the Narthex.



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 leadership of our Church Council members. 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.

<u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS</u>: 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.

<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>L</u>utheran <u>C</u>hurch in <u>A</u>merica), our presiding <u>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</u>, all our bishops, pastors, and 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.

## This Radiance Marks Our True Home

Humans have an almost universal longing for home. We long for those memories of security or comfort, we long for familiar paths and sidewalks and the old oak tree in the back yard. We long for what was, knowing we can never return once we have been changed by life. For some this means we live forever as wanderers and refugees. In the gospel text, Jesus and his family are refugees far from their home in Galilee. Shortly after the events in this text they will leave for Egypt, fleeing from Herod's

persecutions and becoming political refugees.

Still, no matter where we are or how far we travel, as Christians we are always home. Even secular notions of home are more about what physical location *means* to us, rather than mere location. This is particularly true for us as God's people. For the children of God, home is less place than it is *experience* of the presence of God. It is

the glory and wonder of a restored Jerusalem, and as Isaiah promises: "Then you shall see and be radiant" (Isa. 60:5). Home is being in the company of God's people gathered from the ends of the earth and dining together. Home is that holy place in the presence of God where everyone has a place at the table and all are treated equally.

This is a home everyone can recognize and everyone can experience. This is a home for those whose families are broken, a home for those who are homeless, a home for all people. This is the place Jesus creates for us. So we travel on, with a star to guide us, until finally that star shines down on our home. We enter slowly, maybe even with trepidation, and are overwhelmed with joy. What else can we do but offer Jesus the best we have: our very lives?

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105 419-257-3253 <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u>

Church Office Hours M-F 9-1