

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

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December 15, 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: *SAM Paul Brooks*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*

Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

December Candles: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*

December Newsletter: *Laura & Tony Damon*



The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for December are peanut butter, jellies, and jams. Please give joyously so the no one goes hungry.



Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 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.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Forgiving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to forgive."

THE GREETING

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.**

*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Leader: These are the days of expectation, the days of watching and waiting. God has promised us a Savior who will change our lives and make us new. *You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the fields will clap their hands!* Let us light the candle of JOY, praying for divine joy in our hearts and in the hearts of all God's children. *(Isaiah 55:12)*

*GATHERING HYMN #244

REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desire known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the

inspiration of you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Please take a moment for personal reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

ALL: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **ALL: Amen.**

***KYRIE**

Leader: In Peace let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

*GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the

earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

ISAIAH 12:2-6

Reader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

ALL: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Reader: And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

ALL: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Reader: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LIGHT ONE CANDLE FOR JOY

Light one can - dle for joy, one bright can - dle for
joy He brings joy to ev - 'ry heart He
comes. He comes. Light one can-dle for
joy one bright can-dle for joy
He brings joy to ev - 'ry heart. He comes. He comes.

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 3:7-18

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

Leader: There is good news for us today and if comes from the gospel according to Luke chapter 3. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #249

ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

***THE NICENE CREED**

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became

truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Suzanne, Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Riley, Kelli, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, and Gordon.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: and also with you.

Please feel free to shake hands as you share God's peace.

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. The God of heaven and earth, of all of creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together.

ALL: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

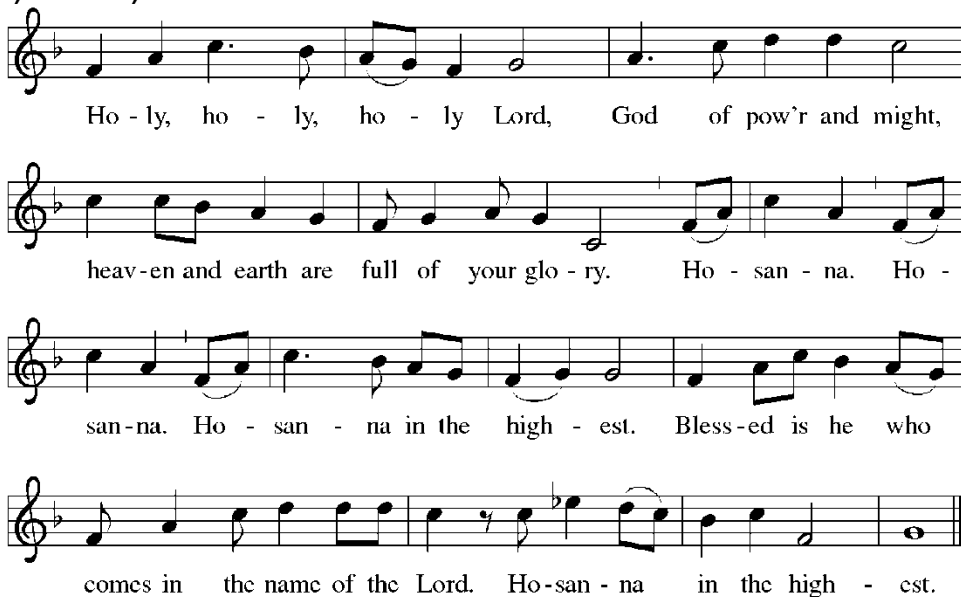
Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choir of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SETTING 3 HYMNAL PAGE 144



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 in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our

praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

***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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: Come to the table and be fed with God's tender mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

***TABLE BLESSING**

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

***HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #207**

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

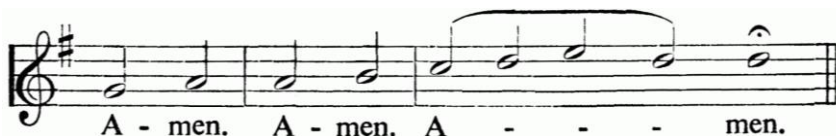
Leader: Please join with me in prayer,

ALL: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

*BLESSING

Leader: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*THE AMEN



*SENDING HYMN #257

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go out and joyfully share the good news. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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*As we leave worship each week, we remember the poor around the world by placing loose offerings in the "hunger bowls" on the Information Table in the Narthex. These gifts are then forwarded to the ELCA World Hunger Program.*

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*Christmas Eve* *December 24,*  
*Worship* *2024*

Set every peak and valley.

*Humming with the Word*

the Lord is coming!  
(ELW 248)

**St. John's Lutheran  
Church in McComb**  
7:00 p.m.

**St. Luke's Lutheran  
in North Baltimore**  
9:30 p.m.

50 YEARS 

## *Bulletins, Candles, and Newsletters*

Thank you to all who helped to support the work of the church through gifts to our Special Fund. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2025 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.

## **To COMPLETE THE YEAR 2024**

Written reports to be included in the annual reports for 2024 are due in the church office no later than **January 15, 2025**. Electronic form is preferred, but not as important as getting the report in. Thank you.

The Finance Committee is looking for two volunteers to help with the Church audit in the first part of January. No experience is necessary. If you would be willing to help, please call or text Clay McCartney at 419-306-5681.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Your Church Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 12, during worship. They are Pam Van Mooy, Suzanne Bucher, Carl Lieser, Clay McCartney, Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes, and Tracey Pritts. Please pray for God's guidance for these members as they lead our congregation into the future.

## **COOKIES & COCOA**

Please join us on Tuesday, December 17, from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. here at St. Luke's for a holiday celebration for the opening of the new Senior Center hosted by St. Luke's Church. All are welcome!

## **Good News Letter**

Check out the Information table for the December issue of the Good News Letter.



# December 2024



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Baltimore, Ohio

| SUNDAY                                                                                                            | Monday    | Tuesday                                                                                | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                    | Thursday  | Friday                                                                                                                                    | Saturday  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Advent 1</b> <b>1</b><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>9:15<br><b>Worship</b><br><b>10:15</b>                             | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00                                                     | <b>4</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Advent 2</b> <b>8</b><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>9:15<br><b>Worship</b><br><b>10:15</b>                             | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00                                                    | <b>11</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Advent 3</b> <b>15</b><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>9:15<br><b>Worship</b><br><b>10:15</b><br>Church Council<br>11:30 | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00<br>-----<br><b>Open House</b><br>12:30-2:00        | <b>18</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>19</b> | <br><b>Newsletter<br/>                     Deadline</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>Advent 4</b> <b>22</b><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>9:15<br><b>Worship</b><br><b>10:15</b>                            | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00<br>-----<br>Christmas<br>Eve<br>Worship<br>9:30 pm | <b>25</b><br>                                                                              | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Christmas 1</b> <b>29</b><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>10:15</b>                                                    | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00                                                    | <p><i>Blessings for a Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>Rejoice evermore! Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.</p> |           |                                                                                                                                           |           |



# 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.

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 joy in the baptisms of Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett Stewart last Sunday. Thanks be to God!

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

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Eli Swartz, Riley Guy, Kelli Sterling, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, 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.

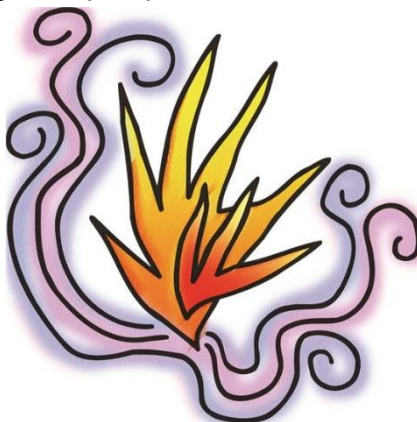
**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

**A.S.A.P.**  
*always say a prayer*

## No More Business as Usual

Lutherans looking for gospel may hear John the Baptizer's preaching as primarily law. It can be difficult to reconcile his fire-and-brimstone style with the joy that traditionally belongs to the third Sunday of Advent. Yet despite John's harsh words for the crowds, the people seem eager for his teaching—"What then should we do?" They keep asking questions fervently, even when the answers call them to higher expectations of moral and selfless living.

It's the kind of teaching that people associate with the Messiah: good news that business as usual is on the way out and something new is on its way in. The status quo of greed, selfishness, scarcity, and complacency no longer has power. A new day of mutual sharing and justice is almost here. Images of the winnowing fork and the ax at the root of the tree suggest habits and fears to be cleared out old to make room for something new. In calling people to repentance, John invites them to turn away from the old life and turning toward God's new life.



John has even better news: The Messiah is indeed coming, one who will not only call people to high expectations, but also enable that faithful living. Because the Messiah is coming to baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire," life will never be the same. Through baptism business as usual will be replaced by a fruit-bearing, joy-yielding, grace-filled relationship with God. It's an excellent reason to "rejoice always" (1 Thess. 5:16): The Lord is near!

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](#)