

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

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December 22, 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 Bob Fett*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*

Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

December Candles: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*

December Newsletter: *Laura & Tony Damon*

The flowers are given by Peg, Judy, and Bill Roberts and Jane Leggiero in loving memory of Rachel Elizabeth Roberts Leggiero, whose birthday was December 21.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 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, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to love like Jesus."

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. *"My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with Him, and in My name shall His horn be exalted. I will set His hand in the sea and His right hand on the rivers."* Let us light the candle of LOVE, for as scripture says nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Psalm 89:24-25)

*GATHERING HYMN #251 MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

*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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

Reader: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

AN INVITATION FOR ADVENT

PSALM READING

(responsively)

LUKE 1:46B-55

Reader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**ALL: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

Reader: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

ALL: You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

Reader: You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

ALL: casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

Reader: You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

ALL: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

Reader: the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

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

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:5-10

Reader: Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then

he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN #253

HE CAME DOWN

(verse 1)

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-55

Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

Leader: There is good news for us today and it comes from the gospel according to Luke chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his

mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #277

AWAY IN A MANGER

***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 Tracey, 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: As we present our tithes and offerings today, let us open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the mission of God's church in this community and worldwide. May we be empowered with the knowledge that our giving is an act of trust in God's unfailing promises.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together.

ALL: Holy God, we remember with gratitude the many ways you touch and bless our lives, to make us more holy and more loving. We offer these gifts and our whole lives, in thankfulness for all you have done, are doing, and will do in our lives. We praise you for these gifts of

bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food, which we partake with gratitude, 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**

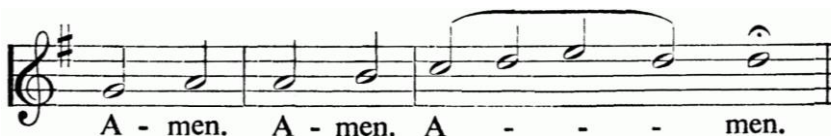
Leader: Please join with me in prayer,

ALL: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, or 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 love 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 #267**

JOY TO THE WORLD

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace and share the good news of God’s love.

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.*

*Christmas Poinsettias*

- Bob Kelley and Family .....Peace on Earth  
.....Happy holidays to All!
- Karen & Lynn Krauss .....in memory of Mary Krauss  
.....in honor of Rose Marie Hosley  
..... in memory of Gene Hosley
- Beth & Clay McCartney .....in memory of Skip McCartney  
..... in memory of Helen & Gail Claybaugh
- Tiffany & Tom Mika..... Season’s Greetings to All!
- Ruth & Dwight Patterson .....in the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of the season
- Nancy & Jim Wymer.....in memory of Lelia & Jim Wymer  
..... in memory Gail & Helen Claybaugh  
.....in memory of Skip McCartney

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## *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.





# 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.

Wishing you  
the spirit of Christmas  
which is **PEACE**  
the blessing of Christmas  
which is **Hope**  
the heart of Christmas  
which is **Love**



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 the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE of the Advent Season. 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.

**GRIEVING:** Tracey Pritts and family following the death of her mother, *Sally Eggleston* on December 14.

**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.

## Being Recognized, Encountering Christ

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.



The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.

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