

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 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>
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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: *Tracey Pritts*
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 North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for January are canned fruits, veggies and soups. Please give joyously so the no one goes hungry.

Reminder - the church council members will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 12, 2025.



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Christmas, December 29, 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.**

*GATHERING HYMN #296

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: 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. Our Savior came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. We now confess our sins, praying for the light.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: God-with-us,

ALL: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace

to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news and rejoice! We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✠ Jesus Christ we are forgiven and redeemed. **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


Refrain



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



I 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.

Refrain



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.

Refrain



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: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

Reader: Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 148

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

ALL: Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Reader: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

ALL: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Reader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

ALL: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Reader: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

ALL: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

Reader: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

ALL: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

Reader: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

ALL: young men and maidens, old and young together.

Reader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

ALL: The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

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

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Reader: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to

God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Setting 3 #142

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**

LUKE 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

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

Leader: Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been

searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

THE MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY #295**

OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN

***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: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

We pray for 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 our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace using the "peace sign."

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: We are here together in the spirit of unity and purpose. As we give our tithes and offerings let us acknowledge the amazing gift of Christmas and the hope that comes with the birth of Jesus, and let us share our gifts with gratitude and thanksgiving.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Children of God, lift up your hearts. **ALL: Our hearts rejoice in the one who became one to us!**

Leader: We have beheld his glory, **ALL: the glory of the Father's only begotten Son.**

Leader: Holy are you, God of all creation! **ALL: Holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, who became servant to save us.**

Leader: Therefore, we celebrate his birth, his life, his death, and his resurrection. 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, Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

ALL: Born in the shadows of night, Christ is our light.

Dying on the cross, Christ is our life.

Rising from the tomb, Christ is our hope.

Returning to us once more, Christ is our promise.

Leader: And so, with all creatures and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THE 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**

***THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION

***THE 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 me in prayer.

**ALL: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your
peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.**

*BLESSING

Leader: The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN #288

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Blessings for a Happy New Year!



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 season of Christmas and the birth of our savior. 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.

Becoming Who We Were Intended to Be



In this Christmas season we celebrate that Jesus has come among us to free us from our enslavement to sin and to restore the dignity of our human nature. With Christ dwelling richly within us, we are empowered to answer our divine callings.

In the gospel Jesus models this by spending time in his “Father’s house,” listening carefully and learning from the teachers. Because of this faithfulness, he increased in wisdom and “in divine and human favor.” Likewise, Samuel learned from the scriptures. This helped him to grow both in stature and “in favor with the LORD and with the people.”

Both Jesus and Samuel are young boys in today’s texts, yet they’re already in the temple answering their unique calls. This illuminates that as God’s children, with the Spirit at work within us, it is never too soon to begin the work of ministry.

The Colossians text instructs us, as God’s chosen ones, to clothe ourselves with love. Humility and the attributes of a servant will enable us to forgive one another and live in peace. In addition, a heart of gratitude is important.

Together, these scriptures help us recognize that each one of us is called through our baptism. God seals us with the Holy Spirit and sets about to transform us through that call. As we answer it, we become who God intends us to be.

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