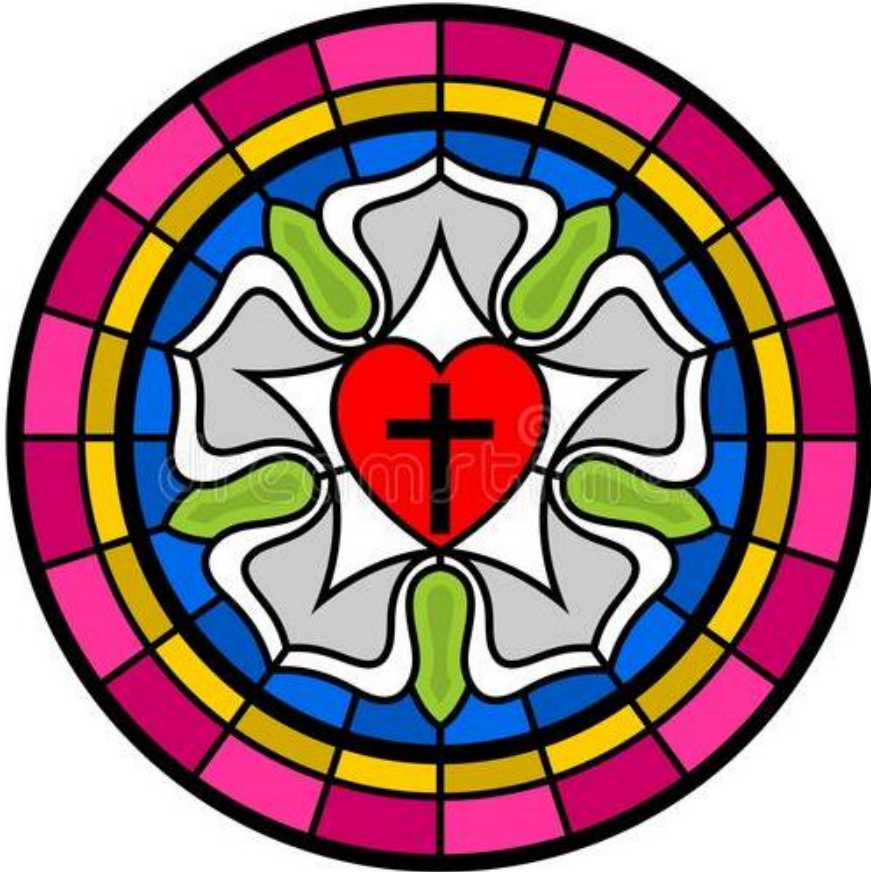


Welcome to Worship

St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



February 4, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*

Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*

Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



## **To the Glory of God**

February Candles: [available for signup](#)

February Bulletins: [available for signup](#)

February Newsletter: [available for signup](#)

**Choir** rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

**North Baltimore Food Pantry February** requested donations include: mac & cheese, pasta, and pasta sauces. Start the new year off right by making a commitment to donate to the food pantry every month. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community mission.

# Order of Worship

Sunday, February 4, 2024

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

*Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "open my heart."*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today to worship our God.

**ALL: The God who created us.**

Leader: The Son who gave his life for us.

**ALL: The Holy Spirit who sustains us.**

Leader: With joy in our hearts, let us worship the God whose love is unending.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #858

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

### \*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please take a moment for silent confession.*

Leader: God, our rock and refuge,

**ALL: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. Amen.

### \*KYRIE HYMN #151

1, 3 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

### \*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May the almighty power of God strengthen you in all goodness and bring you to everlasting life. **ALL: Amen.**

## \*THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry, for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was  
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of 12 staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are repeated in a cyclical pattern across the staves. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are several rests and dynamic markings throughout the score.



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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# GOD SPEAKS TO US

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## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:21-31

Reader: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known?



Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

**PSALM READING** *(responsively)* Psalm 149:1-11, 20c

Reader: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

**ALL: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

Reader: The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

**ALL: The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

Reader: Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

**ALL: The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Reader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

**ALL: who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

Reader: God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

**ALL: God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

Reader: but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love.

**ALL: Hallelujah!**

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

## SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

Reader: If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

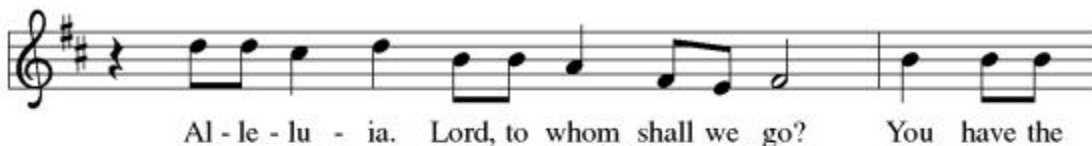
<sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3





## \*GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:29-39

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Mark chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

## THE MESSAGE

**HYMN OF THE DAY #787**

ON EAGLES WINGS

## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

We pray for We pray for Don, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard, Emelyn, Isabella, Kevin, Shirley, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

## **\*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen**



### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: 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**

Leader: God has given us so much. Let us now with thankful hearts give our gifts for the work and mission of the church. Remembering that all we have belongs to God.

### **OFFERTORY**

#### **\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

#### **CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Almighty God, we give you thanks, for by the leading of a star you have revealed your only Son to the world. **ALL: Following him we are led from darkness into his marvelous light.**

Leader: We give you thanks, for a new light has dawned upon the world.

**ALL: All the nations are now called out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.**

Leader: As we remember his birth, life, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith, revealed to us in Christ:

**ALL: Christ came to us, the morning star of love.**

**Christ died, the evening star of salvation.**

**Christ arose, the eternal star of resurrection.**

**Christ will come again, the light that leads us to hope.**

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



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 he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying

**ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**

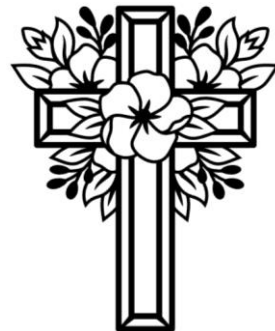
Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying

**ALL: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.**

Leader: Believing that the light of Christ came into our world and still shines in the darkness, come and take your place at the table where heaven and earth are joined as one.

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

## DISTRIBUTION



## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

**ALL: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

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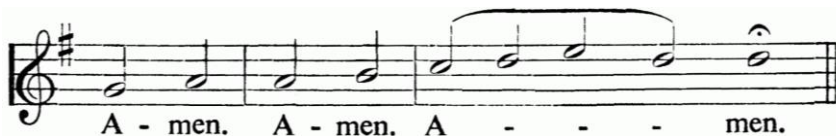
## GOD SENDS US

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## \*BLESSING

Leader: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

## \*THE AMEN



A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

## \*SENDING HYMN #543

GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14



Ash Wednesday is important because it marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when Jesus was resurrected. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. During this period, Christians show repentance and mourning for their sins, because they believe Christ died for them. On Ash Wednesday we will offer a soup and sandwich meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. to include imposition of ashes. Continuing each Wednesday through the Season of Lent (March 20) we will have soup and sandwiches at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Lenten Bible study at 7:00 p.m. Watch the Sunday bulletins and your email for announcement of the study theme and materials. Plan now to join us as we journey through Lent together.



## Today is Scout Sunday



The Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) has been designated as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. Today, let us celebrate with the scouts in our families, our community, and around the world. Let us join in prayer for all Scouts, especially those in this congregation and community.

Let us pray that they may grow in their commitment to God; and that, by his strength, they may attain the goals of Scouting, the goals of physical, mental, social, psychological, and spiritual maturity.

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## 2024 Council Members

St. Luke's Lutheran Church 2024 Council Member positions are: President, JoLynn Stewart; Vice-President, Matt Matthes; Secretary, Suzanne Bucher; Treasurer, Clay McCartney; Financial Secretary, Janet Goldner; Property Committee, Bryant Matthes; Good News†Amen, Tracey Pritts. Take a moment to thank them for their dedication to God's church here in North Baltimore.

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## NWOS 2024 The Year of 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.

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. How will YOU find rest? February Calendars are available on the Information Table and in the February *Good News Letter*.

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The **Spring Gathering** of the Central Conference Lutheran Women will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Findlay. The theme is “Earth Day,” and Lauren Sandhu from the University of Findlay Biology Department will be our guest speaker. The cost is \$7.00. Mark your calendar NOW.

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## Winter/Spring 2024 Bible study: “Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith” by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

**It's not too late to join in!**

Jesus regularly invokes nature in his teaching, drawing us into deeper relationship with the created world. But it's not just Jesus inviting us to see creation as teacher and kin. The scriptures themselves help us see the important role of the created world in God's story and saving work. This Bible study explores how biblical stories of the natural world help us to grow our love for and commitment to God, other people and our beloved earth. The February 2024 study - *Creatures: Our siblings in praise and trust*. Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we'll get to know biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We'll look at biblical animals from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God. For the video go to <https://www.gathermagazine.org/bible-study/>



# 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 all those who participate in our worship by reading scriptures, leading the prayers, serving as Acolytes, and serving as ushers. Thanks be to God!

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

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard Till, Emelyn, Isabella, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the **NWOS** (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 **Central Conference** congregations.

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

## God Heals Persons and Communities

When Jesus heals us, we are empowered to serve others. While at first glance it might seem that Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law was self-serving, on further reflection we see the same result in nearly all of his signs and miracles. The object of Jesus' compassion now has new responsibilities. In the very next chapter a paralytic lowered through the ceiling is raised, only to become the center of a religious controversy (Mark 2:3-12), as was the man who lay by the pool of Bethzatha for thirty-eight years (John 5:2-15). When Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41) the disciples have to row the rest of the way! Any meaningful encounter with Jesus will result in our being changed, which in turn alters the way we see our relationship to the needs of others and the world.



Hard economic times, natural disasters, and divisive, party strife can make us feel helpless and hopeless, as if we have been abandoned by God. Even the church—local congregations as well as denominations—may feel fear and panic in the face of declining numbers and revenues, loss of loyalty from members, indifference or hostility from the surrounding culture, and internal sniping among factions. The exiled people of Israel in Babylon experienced all of this and more, so our condition is neither unique nor beyond the reach of our God. Isaiah 40:21-31 in the NRSV begins “Have you not known? Have you not heard?” Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, translates this idea as “Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?” There is some irony indeed that God's church, entrusted with God's salvation history and the gospel, still panics, still doubts and worries, still feels like it is up to us to save the church. We indeed are “clay jars” (2 Cor. 4:7)—carrying the message but not understanding, preaching salvation but not believing that God cares or will act to save. We live Isaiah 40 every day.

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](#)