

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



September 8, 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: *Pastor Susan Kronbach*  
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*  
Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



## To the Glory of God

September Altar Candles: [\*available for sign up\*](#)  
September Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*  
September Newsletter: *Laura & Tony Damon*

**North Baltimore Food Pantry September** requested donations include: pastas and pasta sauces. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please give generously.

**Choir** practice begins next week, September 15, at 9:15 a.m. in the choir room. Hope you will join us.

# Order of Worship

Sunday, September 8, 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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### 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."*

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **ALL: Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Please take a moment for personal reflection.*

Leader: God, our provider, help us.

**ALL: It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Leader: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more

than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy; you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **ALL: Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #641**

ALL ARE WELCOME

**\*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.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

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.  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**ALL: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

# GOD SPEAKS TO US

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:4-7A

Reader: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

## **PSALM READING**

*(responsively)*

Psalm 146

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**ALL: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Reader: Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**ALL: When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Reader: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**ALL: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

Reader: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

**ALL: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

Reader: The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**ALL: The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

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

## SECOND READING

JAMES 2:1-17

Reader: My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup> For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup> You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup> For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## LORD. LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL



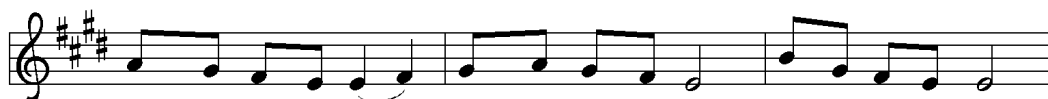
Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## \*GOSPEL READING

## MARK 7:24-37

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

**Leader:** There is good news for us today and if comes from the gospel according to Mark chapter 7. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the



children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY #671**

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

### **\*THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

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

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

## **INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS**

Leader: We come, we sing, we listen, we pray. Let us now give of ourselves through our tithes and offerings to serve the ministry and mission of this congregation, this community, and all of God's world.

## **OFFERTORY**

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

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray together.

**ALL: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

Prayer Leader: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

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

Prayer Leader: Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

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

## **\*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.

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## **GOD NOURISHES US**

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## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: God's love binds us together. Grace comes to us through Christ Jesus. The Spirit moves among us giving us life.

**ALL: All praise to God who is holy, almighty, and merciful.**

Leader: As children of God, in baptism, we were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**ALL: With our hearts lifted high, we give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who in the multitude of your saints did surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life and sing to the God of everlasting love.

## \*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: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me." **ALL: Amen**

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith;

**ALL: We believe that Christ died for us.  
We affirm that Christ was raised.  
We proclaim that Christ will come again.**

Leader: 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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **\*TABLE BLESSING**

Leader: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **ALL: Amen**

## **\*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #182**

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join with me in prayer,

**ALL: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with  
dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at  
peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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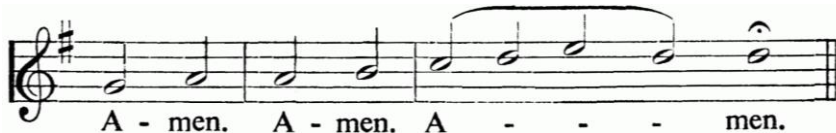
# GOD SENDS US

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## \*BLESSING

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## \*THE AMEN



## \*SENDING HYMN #856

HOW GREAT THOU ART

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **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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Sunday, September 22, **God's Work. Our Hands.** celebration with assembling the 30 Birthday Bags for distribute to the local food pantry. Many hands are needed.

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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 freedom to celebrate Rally Day today and for all of the celebrations that take place in this church. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Bryant Matthes, 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:** Mr. Doherty (father of Caroline Lieser), Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Tony Matthes, 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.

# God Is Partial

Again and again throughout biblical history, God is partial to caring for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Which is why, perhaps, Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman takes us by surprise: "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (Mark 7:27).



The Syrophenician woman acts in faith. She engages Jesus with what she believes to be true about him: that through him God's mercy will extend even to her. Despite the distinctions that separate them (including race, gender, and religion), she believes Jesus is a Savior who has the power to heal all people and that she, although not a Jew, is a member of the household of God.

The second reading, from James, reminds hearers then and now that the Christian community's actions are to be shaped by God's partiality. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. While the world values the rich, the poor are God's own treasure, made honored guests and royal heirs through baptism. The community is called to a partiality based on God's values, not the world's.

The waters of baptism wash away all distinctions. Like streams breaking forth in the desert, these waters surprise us with mercy in unexpected places. These waters open our eyes, unstop our ears, and loose our tongues to see, hear, and speak God's partiality for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit fills us with faith—a faith active in showing mercy that knows no limits.

Around the table, rich and poor, haughty and humble, all who gather receive a feast fit for the family of God. All are honored and all are fed, because the Lord is the maker of them all.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1