

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*
Pastor: *SAM Paul Brooks*
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Yehiel Curry*
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: *Pastor Ken Pollitz*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Jack Sterling*
Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

November Altar Candles: *Beth & Clay McCartney*
November Bulletins: *Beth & Clay McCartney*
November Newsletters: *Beth & Clay McCartney*

The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for **NOVEMBER** are soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste. December's requested donations are mac & cheese, pastas, and pasta sauces. Please give joyously and generously so that no one goes without. Thank you.

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025

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.*

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, "God of light." When you exhale, pray, "help me to shine for 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: During Advent, you call your people to reflect on the coming savior. Guide our prayers Lord so we can focus on your people.

ALL: Lord of Hope, hear our prayers

Leader: Through your Word, we learn how you speak to us today. Soften our hearts and open our ears to hear your redemptive Word.

ALL: Lord of Hope, guide our study of your Word.

Leader: Lord of All, you encourage us to walk your path and meditate on the journey we are on with you.

ALL: Lord of Hope, still our hearts, minds, and souls to center on you.

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: Lord of Hope, we light our first candle of the wreath to remember the hope you pour into our lives. Lay your healing hands

on our eyes so we can see your light guiding our path forward. In your Son's most holy name we pray. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #240

LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: In divine love, God sent Christ Jesus to save us from our sins and from eternal death. God invites us to accept divine, holy grace. We therefore make our confession to the One who offers us this forgiving grace.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Long-expected God,

ALL: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Leader: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior, in the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE

THIS IS THE FEAST



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 prayer.

ALL: God of fiery flames, even the most raging fire could not destroy your servants when they called upon you in faith. Give us faith to withstand anything that rages to deter us from following you. Amen.

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 30:1-12

Reader: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

ALL: O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

Reader: O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

ALL: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

Reader: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

ALL: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

Reader: By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

ALL: To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

Reader: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"

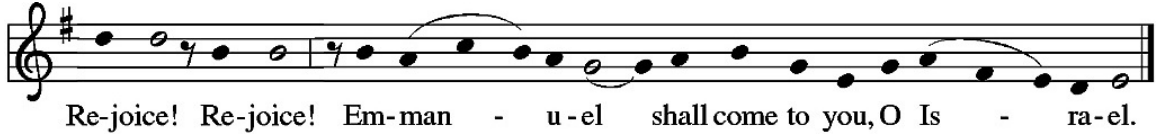
ALL: Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

Reader: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

ALL: Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 18:36-37

Reader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 18. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Reader: Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

DANIEL 3:1-30

Leader: King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴ the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and

languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” ⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, ^[a] and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace

of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary ²⁰ and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹ So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²² Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language

that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.” ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

***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: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Nina, Mike, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Riley, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Ellery, Ari, and Josh.

*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 with those worshiping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: In these days of expectation, of watching and waiting, let us present our tithes and offerings to the God of Hope that we may work together to share the HOPE of Advent all year long.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART





*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here with us.
Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives
reveal your light. Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

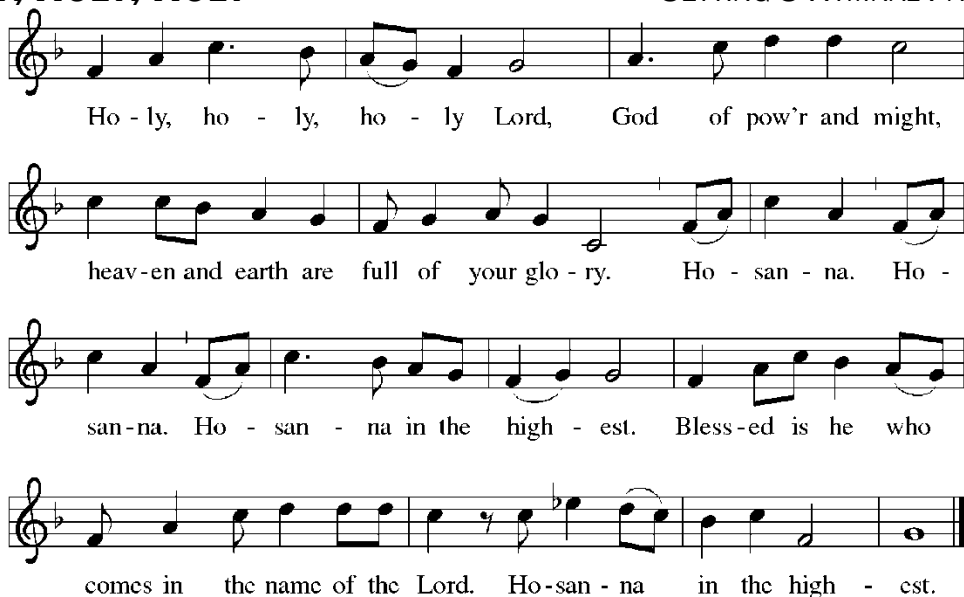
Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

*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.

*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.

To you, O God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. 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: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

DISTRIBUTION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join with me in prayer.

**ALL: God of life, strengthen us through this meal, to bring your HOPE
to the hopeless, your PEACE to the troubled, your JOY to the weary,
and your LOVE to the unloved, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

O LORD NOW LET YOUR SERVANT

(VERSE 1)



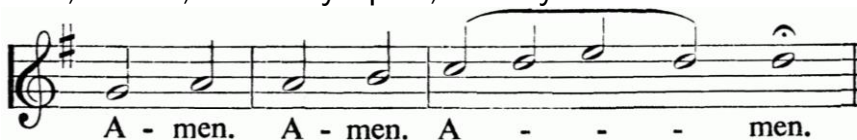
I O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

*BLESSING

Leader: Live without fear. Your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you like a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

*The Amen



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

*SENDING HYMN #438

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in Hope. 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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## TODAY’S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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“*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*” TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 © 1954 Fortress Press MUSIC: Yiddish folk tune

“*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*” TEXT: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat © 1995 Augsburg Fortress MUSIC: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958 © Oxford University Press

“*Create in Me a Clean Heart*” MUSIC: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739 PUBLIC DOMAIN

“*O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*” TEXT: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis MUSIC: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version TEXT © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress (#313)

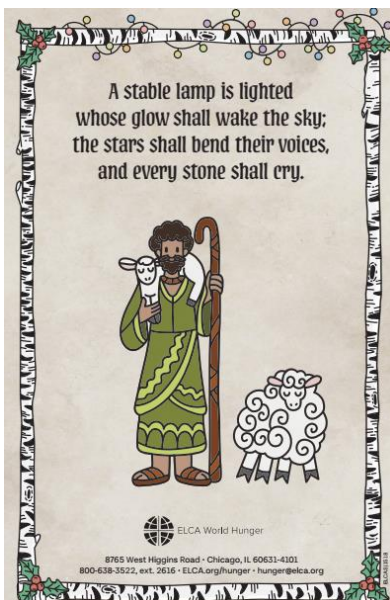
“*My Lord, What a Morning*” Text and Music: African American Spiritual

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## Advent/Christmas Decorating

Please remain following worship to assist the Altar Guild in preparing our worship space for the Advent/Christmas Season. More hands make light word and fun fellowship. Thank you.



## A Stable Lamp is Lighted

2026 interactive Advent Calendars are available on the tables in Luther Hall. Feel free to sit down with your coffee and enjoy fellowship while you color the pieces. Don’t forget to take it home. Happy Advent!

# Gabriel Visits Mary



## **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 the Hope of Advent. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, Karen Krauss, Lisa Claybaugh, Bertha Carter, Eloise Matthes, Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wymer, John Stewart, 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, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Nina, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Dennis Bauer, Anita Roberts, Amy Stewart, Nickie Whitman, Jo Mineo, Eli Swartz, Mr. Doherty, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, 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.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, 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.

**Please keep praying!**



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"...we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

—Daniel 3:18

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **How is God working in each of these stories?***

|           |                       |                                  |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Daniel 3:1 [2-7] 8-30 | The Fiery Furnace                |
| Monday    | Daniel 5:1-12         | Daniel Called to Interpret       |
| Tuesday   | Daniel 5:13-30        | Daniel Helps the King            |
| Wednesday | Daniel 6:1-18         | Daniel Thrown in the Lions' Den  |
| Thursday  | Daniel 6:19-28        | The King Commands Loyalty to God |
| Friday    | Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:1-10 | Ezekiel's Call to be a Prophet   |
| Saturday  | Ezekiel 3:1-11        | Called to Be a Prophet           |
| Sunday    | Ezekiel 37:1-14       | Valley of the Dry Bones          |

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!***

## SERVICE CHALLENGE

*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

If you see someone who is scared or nervous this week, give them a wave, handshake, or hug and tell them, "May God be with you today."

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](#)