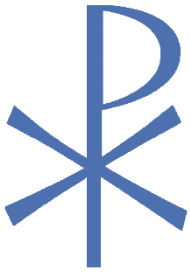


Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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.*

The Altar flowers are given by Peg, Judy, and Bill Roberts and Jane Leggiero in loving memory of Rachael Elizabeth Roberts Leggiero.

Christmas Poinsettias

Bob Kelley and FamilyPeace on Earth
..... Merry Christmas
.....remembering all those who are not with us this Christmas
Arica & Matt Matthes & Family .. in memory in Matt's dad, Carl Matthes
Beth & Clay McCartney in memory of Skip McCartney
..... in memory of Helen & Gail Claybaugh
Tiffany & Tom Mikawishing many blessings to all this holiday season
Ruth & Dwight Patterson in memory of Martha Patterson
..... and David Bowers and to the Glory of God
Dee & John Stewart in memory of Bill Stewart and Grandma Betty
..... and in honor of the Stewart Family
..... in Memory of Jim Heinze and in honor of the Heinze Family
..... in memory of Terry Wymer and in honor of the Wymer Family
Carol Williams.....in joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 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 CANDLES

Leader: Lord of peace, you sent your Son to show us how to live a life of justice and peace.

ALL: Soften our hardened hearts for our neighbors.

Leader: Goad us back to loving our neighbor as you have loved them.

ALL: Help us to pause in our interactions to listen to your call.

Leader: Teach us to appreciate the little things of life,

ALL: so we can see your light, love, and peace in all people.

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: Peaceful Creator, you have made all things to work in harmony with one another. Teach us to appreciate the sanctity of life, the serenity of nature, and your peace which passes all understanding. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #295

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

*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



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: Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM READING

PSALM 130:5-8

Reader: I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. ⁸It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

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

A READING FROM ISAIAH

(responsively)

ISAIAH 11:1-9

Reader: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

ALL: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Reader: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

ALL: Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader: The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

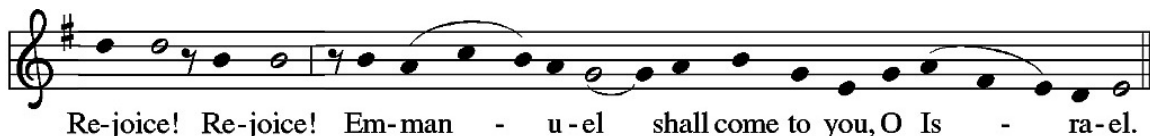
ALL: The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Reader: The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

ALL: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-18

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

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #283

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

***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: Loving God, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we pray for the church, the world, and those in need.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Ruth, Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Diana, Nina, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, 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.

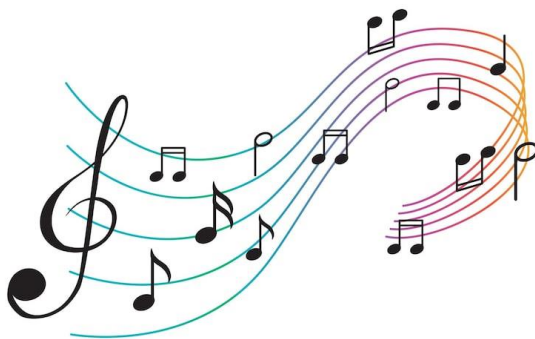
ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshipping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: With HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND LIGHT in our hearts we present our tithes, and offerings to God for all of the blessings we have received.

OFFERTORY



*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord our God, though we do not bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh today, we bring these gifts, along with our lives, and the fruit of our labors. Accept these offerings as our response to the faithful blessings of your love and graciousness, in 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: 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**

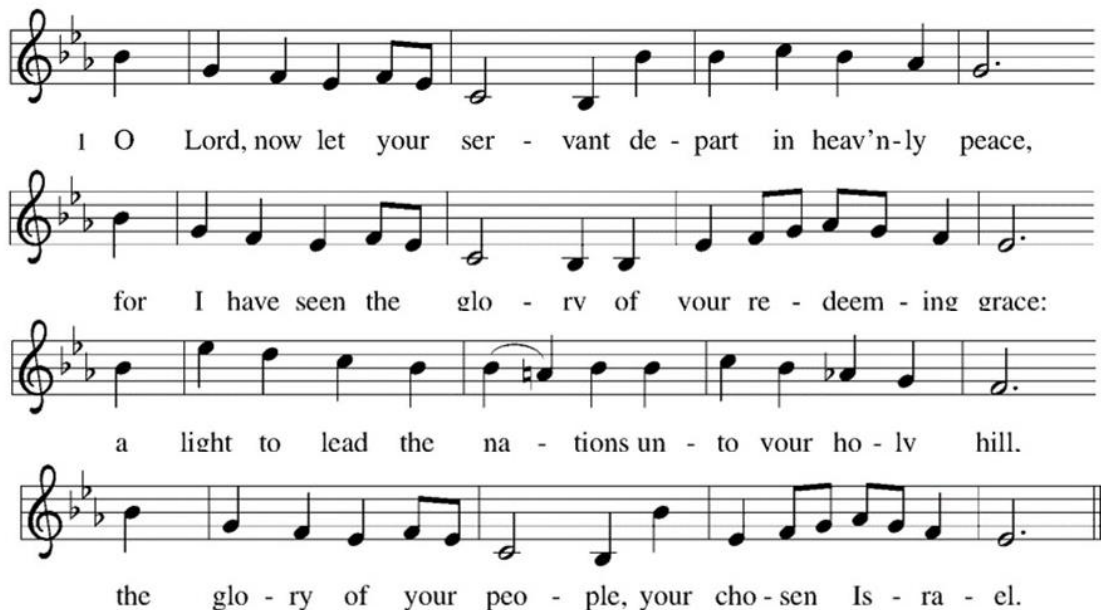
Leader: Please join with me in prayer.

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)



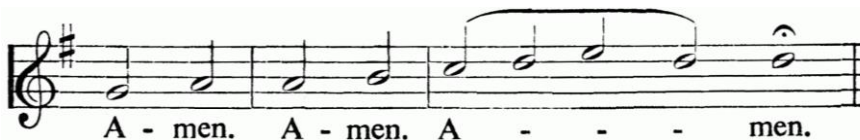
I O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

*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 #439

SOON AND VERY SOON

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in Love to 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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“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite Music: Plainsong mode V, 13<sup>th</sup> cent.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; r. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: attr. John Francis Wade

“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)

“Soon and Very Soon” TEXT: Andrae Crouch, b. 1945 MUSIC: Andrae Crouch Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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## Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *Paul Brooks*

Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Rick Van Mooy*

Ushers: *Jill Guy and Zach Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



## The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for **DECEMBER** are mac & cheese, pastas, and pasta sauces. Please give joyously and generously so that no one goes without. Thank you.

## To the Glory of God

December Altar Candles and Newsletters: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *available for sign up*



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 Love that Advent brings and the anticipation of the coming birth of Jesus. 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, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Diana, 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.

**GRIEVING:** for the families of Neil Clark who passed away on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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<sup>15</sup> praying!**



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

—John 1:14

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |              |                                      |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 1:1-18  | The Word Became Flesh                |
| Monday    | Luke 1:5-25  | John the Baptist's Birth Is Foretold |
| Tuesday   | Luke 1:57-66 | John the Baptist Is Born             |
| Wednesday | Luke 1:67-80 | Zechariah's Song                     |
| Thursday  | Luke 2:1-20  | The Savior Is Born                   |
| Friday    | Luke 2:21-38 | Jesus Is Dedicated and Named         |
| Saturday  | Luke 2:41-52 | Boy Jesus at the Temple              |
| Sunday    | John 1:19-34 | The Lamb of God                      |

*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.*

Celebrate God's greatest gift to us by giving to others through a local or international organization as you are able.

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