

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



December 28, 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: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

December Altar Candles and Newsletters: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *available for sign up*

January Altar Candles, Bulletins, and Newsletters: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

The North Baltimore Food Pantry

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



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 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.**

*GATHERING HYMN #279

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. Our Savior came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sins, praying for the light.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Reconciling God,

ALL: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.

We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. 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.**

* **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

THIS IS THE FEAST

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the soprano range, with some notes in the alto range. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines, with each verse starting on a new line. The lyrics are as follows:

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 victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

ALL: Help us to hear when your chosen voices proclaim the work of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in this world and the next. Amen.

PSALM READING

PSALM 32:1-2

Reader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

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

READING FROM ISAIAH

ISAIAH 40:3-5

Reader: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of

the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:19-34

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: This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was

before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

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

THE MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY #255**

THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

***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: Let us now lift up our hearts in prayer for those around us - families, friends, and strangers in need.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Hear us O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

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 using the "peace sign."

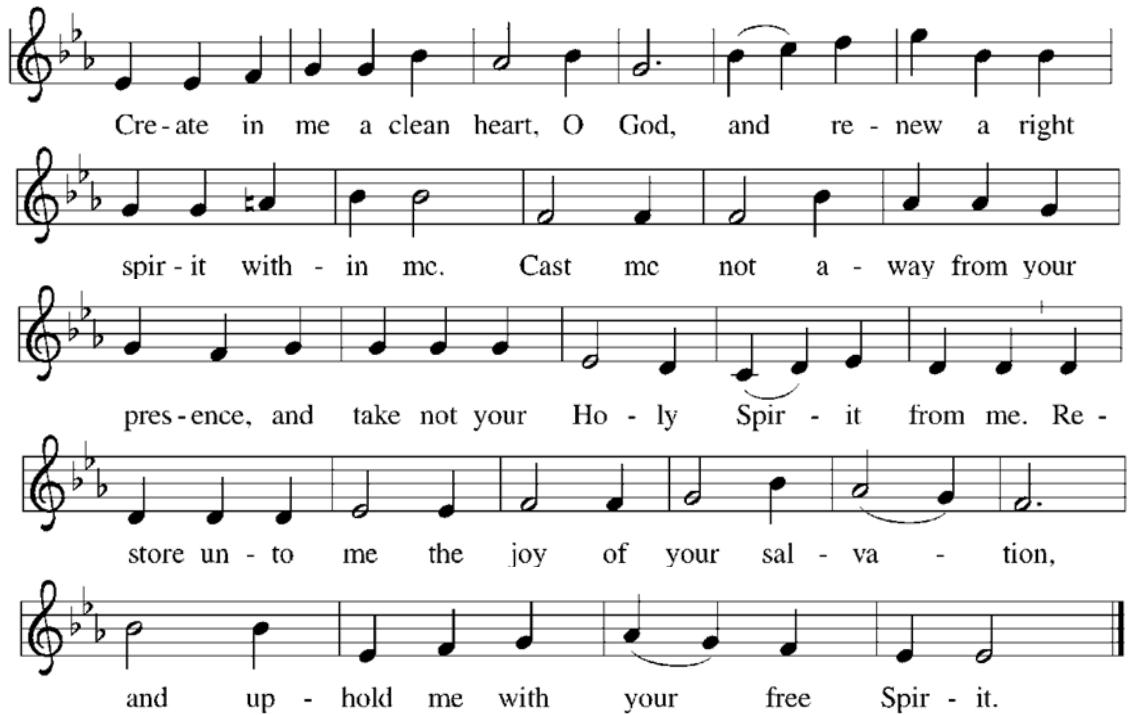
INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

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.

*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: 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:

*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.

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join with 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.
Amen.**

***HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313**

O LORD Now LET YOUR SERVANT
(VERSE 1)



1 O Lord, now let your servant 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: 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 #275

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

*DISMISSAL

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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"O Little Town of Bethlehem" TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

"There is a Voice in the Wilderness" TEXT: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. MUSIC: Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988 © Estate of Eldred Bancroft, admin. B. Burrows

"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)

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" TEXT: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st4. MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879 PUBLIC DOMAIN

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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 each and every blessing of this past year. 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.

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!

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.



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

—John 1:34

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing (or not doing) in each of these stories?***

Sunday	John 1:19-34	The Lamb of God
Monday	2 Kings 1:7-8	Description of Elijah
Tuesday	Malachi 4:5-6	God Will Send Elijah
Wednesday	Luke 3:1-18	John the Baptist Preaches
Thursday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus Is Baptized
Friday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation in the Wilderness
Saturday	Matthew 4:12-17	Jesus Begins His Ministry
Sunday	John 1:35-51	Come and See

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.

Donate a package of bottled water to a local food pantry or keep a package of bottled water in your car to give to those in need that you encounter this week.

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