

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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: *Paul Brooks*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Tiffany Mika*
Ushers: *Jace McCartney and Guy McCartney*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

December Altar Candles: *Carol Williams*
December Bulletins: *available for sign up*
December Newsletters: *Carol 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.

Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 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: Prepare the way of the Lord.

ALL: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Leader: Oh Lord of all, you call us into preparation this Advent season. Guide our hearts and souls towards your peace.

ALL: Lord of peace, hear our prayers.

Leader: Through reconciliation with others and seeking forgiveness you show us the path to peace.

ALL: Lord of Forgiveness, hear our prayers.

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: Faithful God, we struggle with quieting the voices of our minds and the yearning of the self. Draw us back to community, and back to reconciliation. Through you all things are possible, everything is

forgiven, and the path of peace is laid before us. Guide us on this path of peace and love, in your name we pray. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #452** AWAKE, O SLEEPER, RISE FROM DEATH

***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



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are:

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. 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: You promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. Amen.

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 139:1-12

Reader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

ALL: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

Reader: You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

ALL: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

Reader: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

ALL: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Reader: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

ALL: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

Reader: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

ALL: even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Reader: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,

ALL: even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

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 11:25-26

Reader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 11. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Reader: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

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

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

Leader: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come

upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #260

THE KING SHALL COME

*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: Gracious God, on this second Sunday of Advent, we pray for the world, the Church, and its people.

***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.

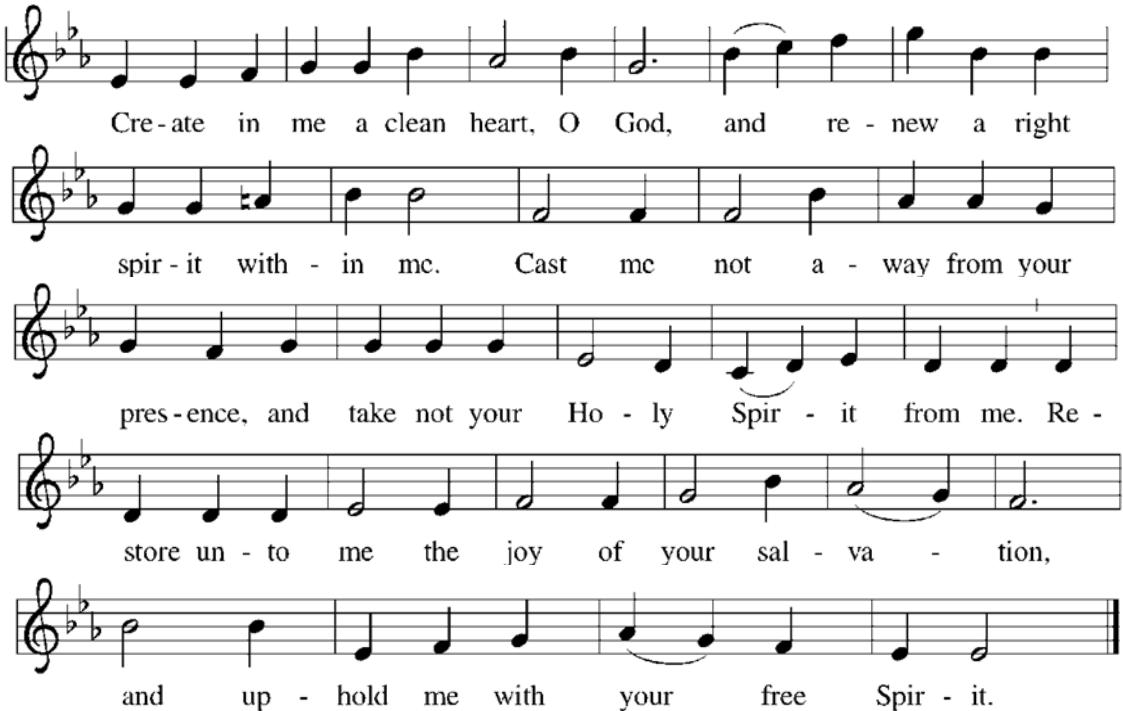
INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, we remember those who are hungry, those who are cold and homeless, and those recovering from devastating storms, floods, and fires. Let us give with gratitude for all we have and remember that everything we have comes from God.

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: 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.**

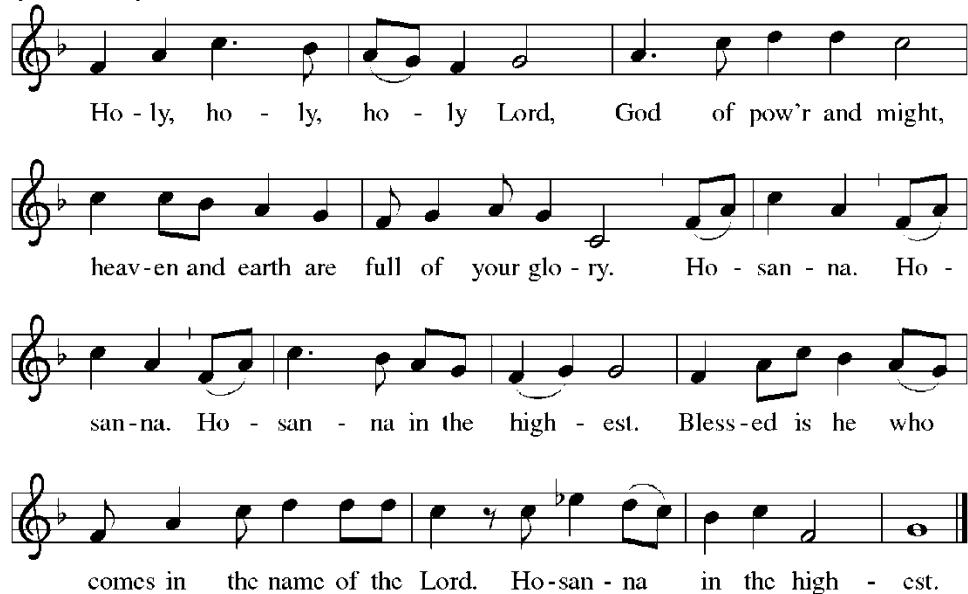
Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

(VERSE 1)

O LORD Now LET YOUR SERVANT



I 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: 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



*SENDING HYMN #259

FLING WIDE THE DOOR

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the good news. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



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.

TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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“The King Shall Come” TEXT: John Brownlie, 1859-1925 Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 © Concordia Publishing House

“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)

“Ring Wise the Door” Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943 © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. Hymnal version © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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Mary
visits
Elizabeth



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 Peace of Advent, the peace that only God can give. 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

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live."

—Ezekiel 37:14

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: Where is God active in each story?

Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of the Dry Bones
Monday	Ezekiel 39:25-29	Prophecy of Israel's Restoration
Tuesday	Ezra 1:1-11	The End of the Exile
Wednesday	Ezra 3:1-7	Worship Begins in Jerusalem
Thursday	Ezra 3:8-13	Rebuilding the Temple
Friday	Isaiah 52:3-10	God's Restoration of Israel
Saturday	Isaiah 54:1-10	God's Covenant of Peace
Sunday	Isaiah 55:1-13	Seek the Lord

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.

Volunteer at a homeless shelter. If that is not possible, contact a shelter and ask what is something you can contribute. Through your actions, show that God's love is extended to others through acting with kindness and generosity.

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105

419-257-3253

StLukesNB@gmail.com

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