

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



February 2, 2025



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
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: *SAM Paul Brooks*
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *JoLynn Stewart*
Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

February Candles: [available for signup](#)
February Bulletins: [available for signup](#)
February Newsletter: [available for signup](#)



The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for February are mac 'n cheese, pastas and pasta sauces. Please give joyously and generously so the no one goes hungry.

Bulletins, Candles, and Newsletters

The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of the Special Fund for 2025 are posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Please sign up to help provide for our worship and news. Thank you.

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, February 2, 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.*

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

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, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to love like 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 #705

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Merciful God,

ALL: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

Leader: God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **ALL: Amen.**

*KYRIE

Leader: In Peace let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

*GLORY TO GOD

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first and fourth staves are marked 'Refrain'. The lyrics are: 'Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. I Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.' The second staff includes a triplet of eighth notes. The third staff has a fermata over the final note.

Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



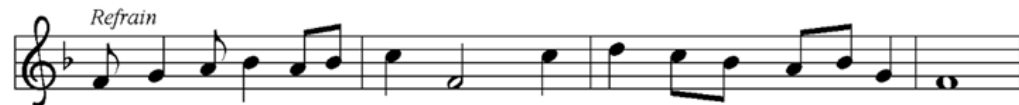
3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

ALL: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

Reader: Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” ⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 71:1-6

Reader: In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

ALL: In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

Reader: Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

ALL: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

Reader: For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young.

ALL: I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.

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

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

Reader: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Reader: ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Reader: ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Setting 3 #142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Luke chapter 4. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him

out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #303

BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS

***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: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: God of grace, **ALL: hear our prayer.**

We pray for Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Frances, Eli, Riley, Kelli, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, and Gordon.

***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, and we remember those less fortunate and those recovering from devastating storms and fires, let us give with gratitude for all we have received and remember that everything we have comes from God.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord God, you are calling us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Help us to seek your kingdom in our lives. Help us to keep your commandments, loving you and all your children. By your Spirit, turn the gifts that we offer into moments and ministries of love and compassion, for the sake of 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.

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.

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: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

DISTRIBUTION

*THE TABLE BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #207

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

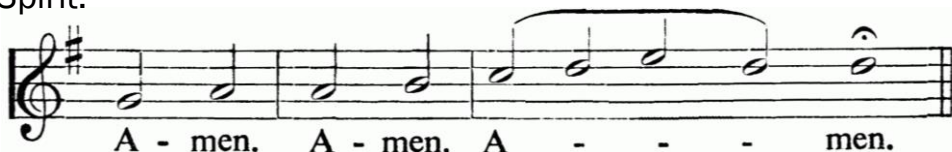
Leader: Please join with me in prayer.

ALL: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

*BLESSING

Leader: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. In the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #796

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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*"God of Grace and God of Glory"* TEXT: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969 MUSIC: JOHN HUGHES, 1873-1932 PUBLIC DOMAIN

*"Brightest and Best of the Stars"* TEXT: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt. MUSIC: James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 MUSIC: © *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress PUBLIC DOMAIN

*"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"* MUSIC: Ronald A. Nelson, b.1927 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress

*"How Firm a Foundation"* Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. MUSIC: Early American

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## February Good News Letter

There are copies of the February newsletter on the Information Table in the Narthex. To those who receive it via snail mail, they were mailed on Friday, so you probably have not yet received your issue.

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## *A Change of Plans*

The planning team for the Lenten Wednesday Bible Studies has decided to use a study on "The Chosen," an historical drama about the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. We hope you will be able to join us beginning Wednesday, March 12.



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 SAM Paul Brooks and his worship leadership. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Becky Bean, 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, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Frances Bullock, Eli Swartz, Riley Guy, Kelli Sterling, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

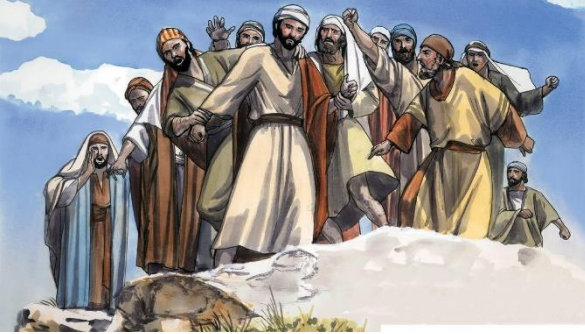
**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**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.

## Called to Domestic Disturbance



Jesus reads from the scriptures and is the talk of the town. At first, Jesus is seen as the hometown boy made good. Then something changes. Is it the mention of Jesus being the son of a local carpenter, Joseph? Does Jesus sense that people are proud of his learning but less eager to engage in his teachings? Is it that people's expectations are raised—but now Jesus tells them that “no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown”? Jesus angers the crowd and is driven to a cliff and probable death. What does it mean for this hometown boy to create a domestic, and more to the point, a holy disturbance? God's vision is certainly a challenge, and now Jesus, with the words of the prophets, is unleashing a disturbance in the domestic, tamed, controlled ways of the world and its powers. In the first lesson for today, Jeremiah recognizes the challenge of speaking a prophetic word and questions whether he is too young to take on God's commission. Jesus steps into his role and finds challenge among his home community and those who have known him his whole life. In a strange twist, Jesus walks through this challenging crowd to safety.

Today, echoing Jeremiah and the psalmist, we sense a call or mission, even in the midst of dangers or among those who would do harm. Jesus and Jeremiah become key illustrations and open conversation of how we are formed, equipped, and called to live God's agape love, even when surrounded by challenges, obstacles, or hostility. Where is God calling us? How must we confront our own or the community's barriers? What prophetic word are we being called to speak that might cause a holy disturbance?

[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](#)