

Welcome to Worship

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church



January 25, 2026



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>
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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: *Dwight Patterson*

Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

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

Mission Project

Our first mission project of the new year is to provide “Soup in a Bag” meals for the local food pantry. For January we are asking for **cans of peas, carrots, and Cream of Chicken soup**. You may place your items on the Information Table in the Narthex. Thank you.

The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for **JANUARY** are canned meats and instant potatoes. Please give joyously and generously so that no one goes without. Thank you.

Order of Worship

Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 25, 2026

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, "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 #732

BORNING CRY

*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Mighty God, lover of justice,

ALL: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

*KYRIE



1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

*CONFESSORAL RESPONSE

Leader: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \ddagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **ALL: Amen.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
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 victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

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: You gave us new life when we were born of water and Spirit.
Help us live into that new life, refreshed and renewed for your work.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

(responsively)

ISAIAH 40:1-8

Reader: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

ALL: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Reader: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

ALL: 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.

Reader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

ALL: A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.

Reader: The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

ALL: The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever.

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

PSALM READING

PSALM 139:13-18

Reader: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

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

JOHN 3:1-21

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 3. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is

born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #729

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN EVERY AGE

***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: Dear friends, as we gather in faith and unity, let us open our hearts to God and lift up our prayers for the world, our community, and one another.

***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, 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.

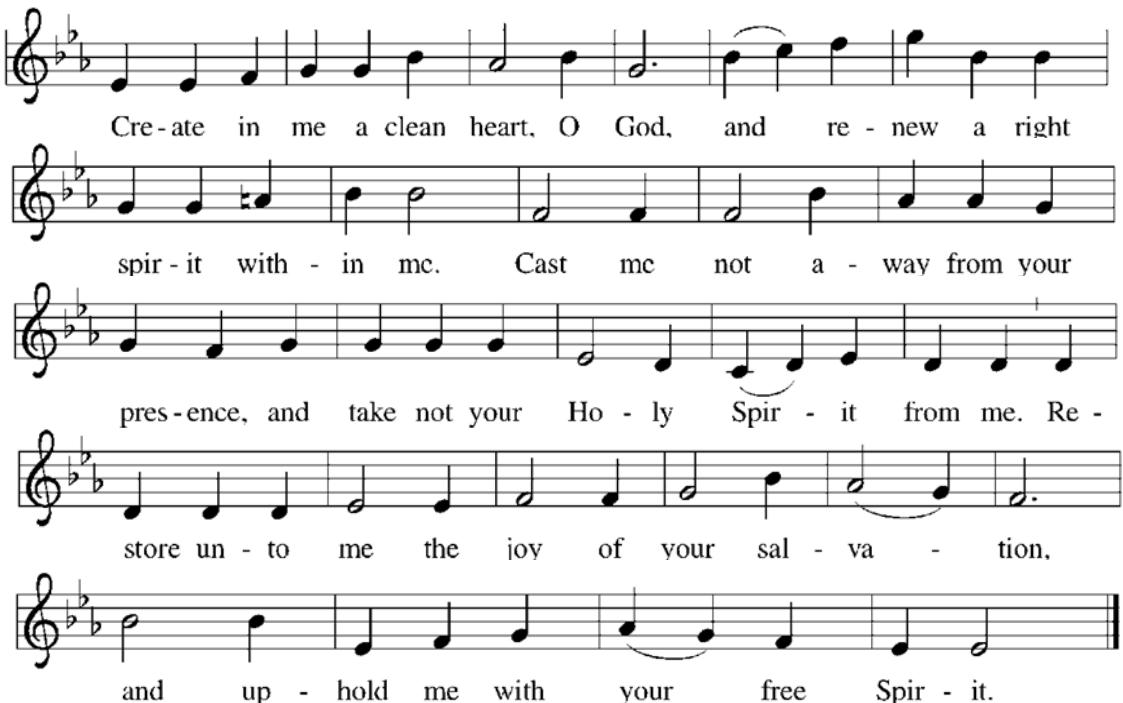
INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, let us open our eyes, ears and hearts to the mission of God's church in this community and worldwide. May we be empowered with the knowledge that our giving is an act of trust in God's unfailing promises.

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. God of majesty,

ALL: no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to help us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, reach out to those recovering from disasters, and pray for those in conflict areas of your world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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



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: In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

DISTRIBUTION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join with me in prayer. Radiant God,

ALL: we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313 O LORD NOW LET YOUR SERVANT**



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: God bless you and keep you, ✕ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. Amen.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #323

GOD LOVED THE WORLD

*DISMISSAL

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



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“*Borning Cry*” TEXT: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 MUSIC: John C. Ylvisaker Text an music © 1954 John C. Ylvisaker

“*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*” TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 (c) 1971 Hope Publishing Company

“*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)

“*God Loved the World*” TEXT: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1797; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt. MUSIC: Edward Miller, 731-1807, adapt

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Smile! God Loves You!



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 faithful and generous contributions of members to the ministry of this congregation. 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.

Pray with all your heart!



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

—John 3:16

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: What do we learn about Jesus from John's teachings and actions?

Sunday	John 3:1-21	Nicodemus Visits Jesus
Monday	John 3:22-30	John the Baptist Preaches about Jesus
Tuesday	John 3:31-36	John's Continued Teachings
Wednesday	Luke 3:19-20	John Put in Prison
Thursday	Matthew 11:2-6	John Sends Messengers to Jesus
Friday	Matthew 11:7-15	John Is Elijah
Saturday	Matthew 11:16-19	Jesus Compares Himself to John
Sunday	John 4:1-26	The Woman at the Well

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.

Choose one or more people who you can visit this week, either in person or virtually, and do so.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1