

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



*First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 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>
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: *Tracey Pritts*
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*
Videographer: *Arica Matthes*



To the Glory of God

February Altar Candles, Bulletins, & Newsletters: [available for signup](#)

Gods Work Our Hands Service Project

For February, we are asking for the rest of the ingredients of the “Soup in A Bag” project – chicken bouillon cubes, bags of noodles, packets of Italian Dressing mix, and 2 small cans of chicken breast meat. Please place these items on the Information Table in the Narthex. The **February** requests for the Food Pantry are laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper. Thank you.

Pick up your Advent Calendar today

OH WAIT! It's not an Advent Calendar - it's a Lent Calendar! Find them on the Information Table, pick one up, and take it home to help you through your Lenten journey.

Order of Worship

First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 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 #502

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God, for seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life we lift our voices:

*** 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.

*** CONFSSIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **ALL: Amen.**

*** GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

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

1 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.



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: Please join me in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life, leaving in the grave all that prevents us from loving you fully. Amen.

FIRST READING

(responsively)

ISAIAH 25:6-9

Reader: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

ALL: And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Reader: Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

ALL: It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

Reader: This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

PSALM READING

PSALM 104:27-30

Reader: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit,^[a] they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW pg 142 Setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL READING**

(responsively)

JOHN 11:1-44(*condensed*)

Leader: 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.**

Leader: Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany,

ALL: the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Leader So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

ALL: "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

Leader : But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death;

ALL: rather it is for God's glory."

Leader: After having heard that Lazarus was ill,

ALL: Jesus stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Leader: Jesus told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”

ALL: The disciples said, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”

Leader: Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death,

ALL: Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. But let us go to him.”

Leader: Thomas said to his fellow disciples,

ALL: “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Leader: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she met him,

ALL: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.

ALL: Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. Do you believe this?”

Leader: She said, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

ALL: After saying this she went back and called her sister Mary.

Leader: When Mary came, she said,

ALL: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Leader: Jesus saw her weeping and was greatly disturbed in spirit and said, “Where have you laid him?”

ALL: They said, “Lord, come and see.”

Leader: Jesus began to weep.

ALL: So, the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

Leader: He said, “Take away the stone.”

ALL: Martha said, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”

Leader: Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

ALL: They took away the stone and Jesus said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.”

Leader: When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

ALL: The dead man came out; his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth.

Leader: Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #494

FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN

***THE APOSTLE’S 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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*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, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Howard, Grange, Owen, Mike, 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 worshipping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Trusting in the almighty power of our God, let us present our tithes and offerings to the God who can take them and mold them and turn them into amazing signs of love and mercy through us.

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. In this season of Lent, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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: 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 and feast on God's goodness and mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join with me in prayer. God of our salvation,

ALL: we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION LAMB OF GOD Setting 2, hymnal pg. 235



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*BLESSING

Leader: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

***The Amen**



***SENDING HYMN #335**

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

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 of Love My Shepherd Is*” TEXT: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877 MUSIC: Irish tune

“*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*” TEXT: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt. MUSIC: *Gross Catalisch Gesangbuch*, Nurnberg, 1637; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823-1895 TEXT © Robert F. Jeffreys Jr.

“*Create in Me a Clean Heart*” MUSIC: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739 PUBLIC DOMAIN

“*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*” TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

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You are invited to join St. Luke’s Lutheran on the Wednesdays of Lent (beginning February 25) as we explore what love is, how it is manifested and what our part is in the world. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with discussion to follow. Please sign up on the Information Table to help provide your favorite soup and sandwich. Hope to see you there!

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)



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 our church family and friends who travel alongside us on our journey through Lent. 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 Kruse, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Howard Till, Granger, Owen, Mike Thompson, Diana, 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: the family and friends of **Vera Sheets** who passed away on February 14. Vera was the Vice-president of the Central Conference of Lutheran Women serving with Carol Williams.

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** (**Evangeli**C**al **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica), our presiding **Bishop Yehiel Curry**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the **NWOS** (**N**orth**w**estern **O**hio **S**ynod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations**

WEDNESDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday, February 25 through Wednesday, March 25

Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.
Discussion @ 7:00 p.m.

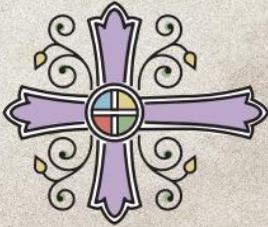
An exploration of what love is
How it is manifested
What our part is in the world

Using excerpts from the book

“Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times”

by Bishop Michael Curry,
the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 215 N. Second St. North Baltimore, Ohio
A limited number of books will be available to purchase @ \$15.00 each



2026 Lent Calendar

18
ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY

19
Thursday

20
Friday

21
Saturday

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy, you brushed into this the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

22
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Read and reflect on Matthew 4:1-11

Today would be a good day to set a goal for your Lenten giving to ELCA World Hunger. Write it down and refer back to it throughout the season.

23
Monday

"When we are tested and wrestle alone, I amishme for bread when the world offers some, nourish us, God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day."
("When We Are Tested," ACS 822)

22
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Read and reflect on Matthew 4:1-11

23
Monday

24
Tuesday

26
Thursday

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger have helped the dew unlock the full potential of her small plot of farmland on the Mentawai Islands of Indonesia. An organic growing program, supported by donors such as you, uses techniques that have helped her make a significant impact on the lives of her sustainable herds. Inspired by sharing her gifts with others in organic farming methods, she is using her organic methods and watching her herd and watching the full impact of her gifts to ELCA World Hunger.



28
Saturday

"Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shout!" ("Light Dawns on a Weary World," ELW 726)

MARCH
1
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Read and reflect on John 3:1-12

2
Monday

3
Tuesday

The Sole Community Peace Center in Los Angeles, a partner of ELCA World Hunger, offers programs to help people—especially kids—cope with the stress of economic struggle. It also offers resources to alleviate food insecurity. A few years ago, with support from donors such as you, the center began giving out vegetable and herb plants and even a few fruit trees to community members, inviting them to grow their own food at home. "It's more than just food," says program director Susan Stouffer. "It is hope."



5
Thursday

Listen to "Here I Food," season 1, episode 4 "Foreign Assistance Funding: From Effects to Food." Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help our church's advocacy team ensure that we are providing desperately needed relief to the people around the world who are hungry. Your generosity. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

6
Friday



"Lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).

7
Saturday

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Read and reflect on John 4:5-42

9
Monday

10
Tuesday

A woman might have the dream and skills to start her own small business, but with little savings or access to credit, getting started can be a challenge. A gift of \$25 can fund a microloan, which can be just what a woman needs to start her business, create a steady source of income and help her family overcome poverty.

11
Wednesday

13
Friday

Complex Times," to hear from hunger advocacy fellow Joy Chin among other guests. Learn how advocacy fits in with the work of the ELCA and our faith-based partners, how advocacy has changed, different forms of activism and much more. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

14
Saturday



Rita Rishlew, an 18-year-old student in Nepal, is a member of the Dalit community, one of the most marginalized ethnic groups in the country. Your support is empowering her to stand up for her rights and fight for justice for her community. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger have enabled Rita to attend trainings where she has learned about national and international rights laws, including those protecting the rights of women and children. "I'll never let go of the future," she says. "I am committed to working for my community." Your generosity has helped Rita—and other emerging activists—find their voices. Read the full story at elca.org/WH/ent.



All resources referenced can be found at [ELCA.org/WH/ent](https://elca.org/WH/ent)



Pick up a large print copy from the Information Table in the Narthex.



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life."

—John 11:25

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read, ask yourself: What do each of these stories have in common?

Sunday	John 11:1-44	Jesus Raises Lazarus
Monday	John 11:45-57	Concern About Jesus' Actions
Tuesday	John 12:1-11	Jesus Anointed at Bethany
Wednesday	John 12:12-19	Jesus Enters Jerusalem
Thursday	John 12:20-36	Greeks Want to See Jesus
Friday	John 12:37-50	Many Are Scared to Admit Their Faith
Saturday	Isaiah 6:1-10	Isaiah's Prophecy about the People
Sunday	John 13:1-17	Jesus Serves

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.

Buy a variety of paper products and donate items to a nearby food pantry.

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