

Welcome to Worship

St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



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

July 26, 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: *Paul Brooks*
Assistant Worship Leader: *Jack Sterling*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Tracey Pritts*
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



Th Flowers are given by Peg, Judy, and Bill Roberts and Jane Leggiero in loving memory of Ruth Jane Roberts & William H. Roberts M.D.

To the Glory of God

July Altar Candles, Bulletins, & Newsletters: *Carol Williams*

Food Pantry Needs

The **July** requests are **shampoo, body wash, deodorant, & toothpaste**.
The August requests are mac 'n cheese and pork 'n beans.

Feed the Children

The **July** request is **breakfast bars**.

Give Thanks!

Order of Worship

Sunday, July 26, 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 listen."

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 #439

SOON AND VERY SOON

(BULLETIN PAGE 10)

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Compassionate God,

ALL: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*** CONFSSIONAL HYMN #574**

HERE I AM, LORD

"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

*** CONFSSION RESPONSE**

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

ALL: Amen.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #836**

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Please join me in prayer, Beloved and sovereign God,

ALL: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

RE-DEDICATION OF HISTORIC WIDOW GLASS

FIRST READING

LUKE 17:5-6

Reader: The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

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

PSALM READING

(unison)

PSALM 23:1-6

ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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

***ACCLAMATION OF THE WORD #608**

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

***NEW TESTAMENT READING**

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

Leader: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who

abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #514

O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

(BULLETIN PAGE 11)

***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**

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Merciful God. **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Mike, Ned, Lorraine, Pat, Rut, Ruth, Steve, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Ron, Cheryl, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Brianne, Delphia, Charles, Heather,

Granger, Owen, Mike, Diana, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Nickie, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Michael, Cindy, John, Sue, Carol, David, Betty, LuAnn, Colene, Teri, Eric, Lisa, Kris, Don, Ashley, Brandt, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Vicki, Josh, Linda, and Ellery.

Prayer leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

***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 that everything we have comes from God. Let us give with gratitude for all we have been given and all that we have to give.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #504**

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray, Gracious God,

ALL: let these gifts be a reflection of our gratitude for all that we have received, and a commitment to the future of God's work in this place. May we continue to live out the legacy of love and service that those who have gone before us have embodied.

***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 of 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:

***HYMN #413**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

***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.

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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast.

DISTRIBUTION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join with me in prayer, Compassionate God,

**ALL: through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with
the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this
holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us
now and forever. Amen.**

***HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #697**

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;

I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*

*BLESSING

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #533

OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

(BULLETIN PAGE 12)

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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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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## TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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"*Here I am, Lord*" TEXT: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.

"*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*": PUBLIC DOMAIN

"*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*" TEXT: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909 MUSIC: Will L. Thompson

"*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*" TEXT: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, ©*Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

"*O Word of God Incarnate*" TEXT: *Willim W. How*, 1823-1897, att. MUSIC: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

"*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*" PUBLIC DOMAIN

"*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*" PUBLIC DOMAIN

"*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*" TEXT: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1727; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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## O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,

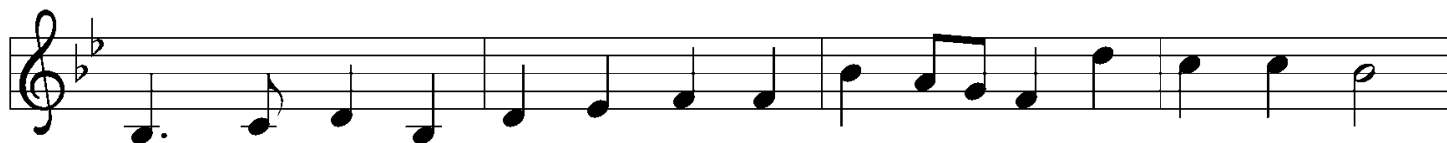


a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

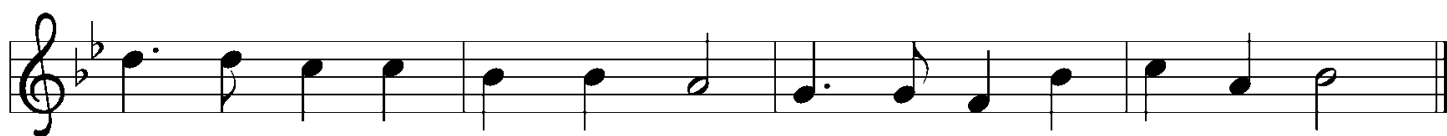
## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

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**WE GIVE THANKS:** for those who gathered 129 years ago with a vision of St. Luke's Lutheran Church here in North Baltimore. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Mike Ferguson, Ron Bean, Ned Slaughterbeck, Lorraine Ferguson, Pat Wheeler, Rut Heilman, Lois Heilman, Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, Lisa Claybaugh, Bertha Carter, Eloise Matthes, Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, John Stewart, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Cheryl Kruse, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Brianne Gott, Delphia Roberts, Charles Edens, Dennis Bauer, Heather Wymer, Granger, Owen, Diana, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Nickie Whitman, Eli Swartz, Mr. Doherty, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, 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 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.

## The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like . . .

A string of parables describes the kingdom of heaven, and then we hear Jesus' question: "Have you understood all this?" The mustard seed, yeast, hidden treasure, pearls—these bring good news of growth and joy and riches. Then come the fish, the furnace of fire, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Once again this week we hear of a God of mercy and justice. Once again there is good news to be heard in Paul's letter to the church at Rome—nothing will ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. How will we reconcile these two images of God?



"Kingdoms" are not common in our world. When most of us think about kingdoms, we call up images of British or other royalty—jeweled crowns, a palace. At the time the Gospel of Matthew was written, the people were subject to the empire, or kingdom, of Rome. Perhaps the writer wants us to contrast the oppressive rule of Rome with a vision of heaven's kingdom of love and mercy. The translation of the Greek *basileia*, a feminine word usually rendered in English as "kingdom," is difficult. The writer of Matthew may have used the expression "kingdom of heaven" instead of "kingdom of God" in order not to offend Jewish Christ-believers who honored the word for God by avoiding its use.

King Solomon asks God for the wisdom to discern between good and evil, for the understanding to live out both justice and mercy as a ruler of God's people. God was pleased with Solomon's request. The wisdom Solomon seeks to rule his earthly kingdom reflects the wisdom of the kingdom of heaven. King Solomon was variously successful in his discernment of good and evil, as are we.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1