

Welcome to Worship

St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



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

July 5, 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: *Tiffany Mika*

Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

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

Food Pantry Needs

The **July** requests are **shampoo, body wash, deodorant, & toothpaste.**

Feed the Children

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

It's a Party!

Remember to stop by Ruth McKee's 100th Birthday Celebration from 12-4 this afternoon at 1283 TR 14, Van Buren.

Give Thanks!

Order of Worship

Sunday, July 5, 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 #836

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

(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 #810**

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

* **CONFESSIOIN 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 #689**

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Please join me in prayer,

ALL: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

LUKE 1:68-72

Reader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus, he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 2:1-6

Reader: Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

ALL: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying,

Reader: “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast their cords from us.”

ALL: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision.

Reader: Then he will speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury, saying,

ALL: “I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”

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

*ACCLAMATION OF THE WORD

O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

*OLD TESTAMENT READING

ESTHER 7:1-10; 9:1-2. 20-22, 29-32

Leader: So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” ³ Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” ⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” ⁶ Esther said, “A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified

before the king and the queen. ⁷ The king rose from the feast in wrath and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that the king had determined to destroy him. ⁸ When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman had thrown himself on the couch where Esther was reclining, and the king said, "Will he even violate the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the words left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face. ⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰ So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

9 Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, when the king's command and edict were about to be executed, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain power over them but that had been changed to a day when the Jews would gain power over their foes, ² the Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to kill those who had sought their ruin, and no one could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen upon all peoples.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

²⁹ Queen Esther daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, gave full written authority confirming this second letter about Purim. ³⁰ Letters were sent wishing peace and security to all the Jews, to the one hundred

twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, ³¹and giving orders that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther enjoined on the Jews, just as they had laid down for themselves and for their descendants regulations concerning their fasts and their lamentations. ³²The command of Esther fixed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #732

BORNING CRY

(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**

Prayer Leader: Let us pray for the church, the world, our nation, and all in need, trusting in the God who delivers and redeems.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

We pray for Ron, Ned, Lorraine, Pat, Rut, Lois, Ruth, Steve, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Cheryl, Bob,

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

Prayer leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love made known in Jesus Christ our 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: We come today to sing praises to God, to listen for the Word of God, and to pray for guidance and forgiveness. Trusting in the everlasting love and mercy of our Lord, let us give of ourselves through our tithes and offerings to serve the ministry and mission of this congregation, this community, and all of God's world.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #860**

I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,

singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray, Creator God,

ALL: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars. Draw near to us, and show us how you would have us use these offerings for the good of your church in this community and in the world. 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 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 #441**

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

***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 #785**

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

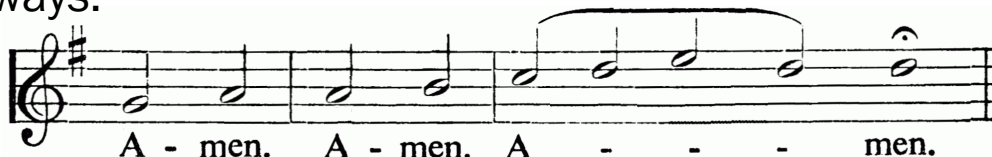
When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul

*BLESSING

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

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #890

MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

(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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*“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”* PUBLIC DOMAIN

*“O Jesus, I Have Promised”* TEXT: John E. Bode, 1816-1875, alt. PUBLIC DOMAIN

*“Praise and Thanksgiving”* TEXT: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt © Oxford University Press

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”* TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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

*“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”* TEXT: African American spiritual

*“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”* TEXT: Reginald Heber, 1781-1826, alt.

*“When Peace like a River”* TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

*“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”* TEXT: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910 MUSIC: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

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# Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



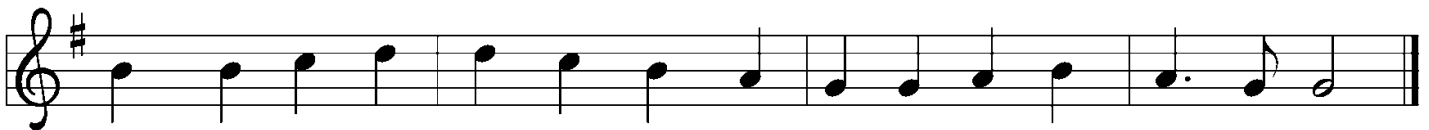
- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

# Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

## Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;  
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;  
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.  
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:  
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!  
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.  
Our God is march - ing on.  
while God is march - ing on.

### *Refrain*



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910

Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent



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 the United State of America and the freedoms we so often take for granted! Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** 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:** Charles Edens, Dan Lammers, Dennis Bauer, Heather Wymer, Granger, Owen, Diana, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Anita Roberts, Nickie Whitman, 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.

**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.

## When a Yoke Means Freedom

Today's gospel reading contains iconic words from Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my



burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). Jesus offers a yoke to tired listeners and tells them that a yoke will give them rest. The yoke as a means to rest was a strange idea for the disciples, and it ought to sound strange to us as well. The early hearers of this biblical passage would have known a yoke to be a means of

engaging the energy of oxen as heavy lifters in the enterprise of farming. Yokes are still employed in our world and they are still a burden and a way of harnessing animals' hard work. The first ancient readers or hearers of Matthew also viewed a yoke as a symbol of obedience to God's law and wisdom. Generally, our instinct is to resist yokes and laws, or at least not immediately connect them with the idea of freedom. Through the image of the yoke, however, Jesus invites us to think of God's law and wisdom as a means to surrender, give way, and accept something graceful and positive—rest, ease, lightness. Jesus reframes the idea of a yoke by telling us that a yoke will help us grow as disciples. The gospel links humility to freedom.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1