

# The GOOD NEWS Letter



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
215 North Second Street  
North Baltimore OH 45872-1105

October 2023



## A Reflection from Pastor Rob

Sunday Morning Worship  
10:15 a.m.  
In-person and Facebook Live

Church Office Hours  
Mon-Fri 9-1

StLukesNB@gmail.com  
419-257-3253

Church Secretary Dana Bourne

Home Page  
<http://stlukesnb.org>



As Lutherans, we believe that we are part of God's unfolding plan. When we gather for worship, we connect with believers everywhere. When we study the Bible or hear God's word in worship, we are drawn more deeply into God's own saving story.

EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN  
AMERICA



GOD'S WORK.  
OUR HANDS.

<http://www.elca.org/>



Northwestern  
Ohio Synod

<https://nwos-elca.church/>

Our Vision is to know Christ  
and make Christ known.

Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and ministry!

October 1, my last Sunday with you all, will mark 33 months of ministry together.

When I arrived in January 2021, I was recording worship on Saturdays and doing counseling sessions over ZOOM calls.

Now, not only are we back to in-person worship, we have started the conversation on how, together, St. Luke's and St. John's can build a pastoral call together.

I am proud of the work you are doing to figure out what God's future will be. Discernment is not - and has not always been - easy.

Not long ago, Janet Goldner shared her reflections on the changes we have seen, particularly since emerging from pandemic lockdowns. Janet was looking through church archives, particularly during the Depression years. At that time, council members worried that people were not attending worship; they were worried that they couldn't meet their budget; they worried how long their church would stay open.

In thinking about this, Janet has reminded me that we've been here before. And, we have survived.

My prayer for you is that you do not fall into the trap that your best days are behind you. To the contrary, I think your best days are ahead of you, even if they are uncertain. Your compassion for one another; your desire to bring the best out of your community; and your faithfulness in the midst of struggle are strengths. Do not count yourselves out.

If I have any advice to give it would be to resist the temptation to build silos. In other words, St. John's and St. Luke's will do better if you mutually help one another, rather than save yourselves separately. Building each other up plays into your strengths. With the Spirit's help, see yourselves as a parish who brings good news not only to North Baltimore and McComb separately, but also to one another and everyone in between.

In God's Peace,  
*Pastor Rob*



## Is God Calling You to Lead?

As we say “Good-Bye” to Pastor Rob, we must now focus on how WE can move ahead in the life of St. Luke’s Church. While we have obtained a list of supply pastors from the Synod, we are seeking those in our own family congregation who are willing to step up and lead worship. We will continue with our list of scripture readers, prayer leaders, and those equipped to lead communion. We are now seeking those to lead the other parts for worship or just to deliver the sermon. Resources are available to help with sermons. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to assist in leading worship every now and then.

## October is Reformation Month

On Halloween of 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church. These 95 Theses expressed his concerns over corruption found in the Catholic church. One of his primary concerns was the church selling “indulgences” to people in order to release them from having to serve penitence for their sins. An act which he considered to be people trying to buy their way into heaven. This act opened up a debate with religious scholars of the time that eventually led to the Protestant Reformation.

Let us not just reflect on the history of Protestantism on Reformation Day (October 31) but the entire Reformation Month. Let us remember that we are not just a reformed church, but a church that is constantly reforming while holding on to the love, grace and the mighty power of our God.

## The Next Step

The next step we need to take in the process of calling a new pastor is to form the Call Team. The church council is seeking individuals who are interested in serving on this team. For more information about the duties of the Call Team, please talk with a member of the church council or pick up an information sheet from the table in the Narthex at the church.

## NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty



**OCTOBER** requested donations include peanut butter, jams, jellies, and preserves.

**NOVEMBER** requested donations include laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper.

Served the third quarter of 2023:

Jul 2023 19 families/40 individuals

Aug 2023 19 families/40 individuals

Sep 2023 21 families/37 individuals

Thank you for your support of this vital community ministry.

## Church Picture Directory

We are ready to begin preparing the picture directory for printing. If you would still like to submit a photo, please get it to the church office right away. Pictures of church events past and present are welcome. Look for the directory near the end of October.

Reformation and Halloween are what we think about in October, but the local food pantry has Christmas on their minds. Their plan is to prepare 25 food boxes for those in need in our community. We are being asked to provide **25**

**cans of sweet potatoes/yams and 25 cans of cranberry sauce.** Please place your donations on the shelves above the coat racks in Luther Hall by **November 12**. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

## Congratulations

...to the Stewart family, as Colton Stewart was selected as the Kindergarten "Prince" for the North Baltimore Homecoming. He is the son of Zach and Lauren Stewart and the brother of Adalynn and Maylee. He is in Mrs. Buchanan's class, and when he grows up he wants to be a firefighter. His favorite color is blue, and he enjoys sports, fishing, and hunting.



## Looking ahead

October 29 – Reformation Sunday  
November 5 – All Saints' Sunday  
November 12 Annual Meeting & Fundraising Dinner  
nominations,  
December 3 – advent begins  
December 24 (Sunday) – Christmas Eve  
December 24 – Christmas Day

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## **St Luke's Lutheran Church**

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, September 17, 2023

### **Opening**

JoLynn called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 11:40am.

### **Attendance**

Present – JoLynn Stewart, Suzanne Bucher, Janet Goldner, Clay McCartney, Bryant Matthes, Pastor Rob Johnson  
Absent – Tracey Pritts

### **Approval of Previous Month's Minutes/Secretary's Report**

- August 2023 minutes accepted – Motion by Clay, 2nd by Janet. All approved.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor announced in church today that he will be leaving St Luke's and St John's effective September 30, 2023, but will still preach on October 1, 2023. There should be an exit interview with Deacon Sherry.

### **Statistical Report**

- Went over the member count & attendance.

### **President/Vice-President's Report**

- JoLynn sent Emily a note about leaving council.
- JoLynn stated that we have to communicate better between ourselves so people aren't blind-sided about things.
- Janet suggested that we create a schedule of individuals that could lead our congregation on Sunday's where a Pastor is absent.

### **Good News Amen Report**

- Nothing to Report



## **Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report**

- Clay submitted his August report showing \$6,425.16 in the black.
- Clay's report was accepted - Motion by Suzanne, 2nd by Bryant. All approved.

## **Property Committee Report**

- The carpet cleaning will be scheduled soon.

## **Other Committees/Announcements/Transitional Ministry**

- Nothing to Report

## **Mutual Ministry/Transition Team**

- Call Committee - An announcement needs to be in both St Luke's and St John's bulletins and October newsletter that a Call Committee of seven (7) voting members will soon be formed between St Luke's and St John's, and that we are asking for volunteers of all ages to be on this Committee. Members should let any church council member know if they are interested by Sunday, October 15, 2023. If we do not get volunteers, we will have to approach members for this in late October.

## **Unfinished Business**

- Janet has an EMT lined up to come to St Luke's for ADT training.
- Bryant is still looking into converting our lights to LED.
- Bryant is working on getting smoke detectors.

## **New Business**

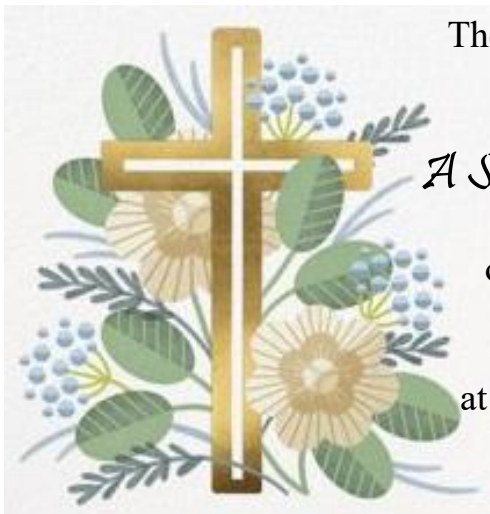
- The AED defibrillator has been checked and is fine.
- Fundraising Dinner – Sunday, November 12, 2023

## **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:00pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, October 15, 2023 @ 11:30am

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

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The family of Rex McCarty

invites you to

*A Service of Remembrance*

on Sunday, October 15

at 1:00 p.m.

at Pearson Park in Toledo.

Lunch will be served.

Contact Jocelyn Bongorno 419-575-4937

# Fall 2023: “Holy places,” a three-session Bible study by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni



Physical places often shape our identities, relationships and faith. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it,” Paul writes. Part of what this means is that faith doesn’t just reside in our thoughts or emotions. Faith resides in our whole bodies, and how our bodies “live and move and have our being” in the sacred places where God encounters us. In this Fall 2023 Gather Bible study, written by an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem, we’ll explore what holy places mean, not

only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be.

## **September 2023** Holy places: Home

Home can be the place we lay our head and the people we call family. Home can be our community or homeland. Home is also found wherever we truly and fully belong. This month, we consider the complexity and the promise of “home” through the stories of Israel’s exile, the ministry of Jesus, and the promises of Revelation.

[Download session one, “Holy Places: Home.”](#)

[Watch video for session one, “Holy Places: Home.”](#)

## **October 2023** Holy places: Sanctuary

For thousands of years, physical spaces have been set apart for individual prayer and community worship. “Sanctuary” is one word for such spaces. Throughout history, “sanctuary” has also referred to spaces of safety and refuge. If God is everywhere, what is the importance of sanctuary? What can Jesus’ teachings and Paul’s correspondence with the early church teach us about what sanctuary looks like today?

[Download session two, “Holy Places: Sanctuary.”](#)

[Watch video for session two, “Holy Places: Sanctuary.”](#)

## **November 2023** Holy places: Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage, a journey to a sacred place, is a spiritual practice with a long history in Christianity (and many other religions). In the Bible, pilgrimage is not only about the destination, but also about the “holy place” of the journey itself. Considering the journey of the Magi, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, we’ll ponder how pilgrimage can inspire, challenge and transform our faith and our lives.

From Gather the magazine of Women of the ELCA

[www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org)

# ***LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,***



**WE GIVE THANKS FOR:** God's gifts and guidance for those who faithfully serve on our Church Council; for the weekly ministry of the Altar Guild, preparing for our worship services; for opportunities to celebrate the gifts from God with family and friends; the gift of work, and the gifts God has given each of us to contribute to God's world. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Emelyn Brown, Isabella, Mary Ann Webb, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**CHERISH ALL CHILDREN:** All of God's children, that we seek to protect and cherish their lives and futures, always staying focused on what is best for God's children. [www.cherishallchildren.org](http://www.cherishallchildren.org).

**MILITARY:** for all those 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:** 3.7 million baptized members, 9,320 congregations, all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, and 75,000 members in the 162 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 everyone to seek You and share Your love, grace, and mercy.

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## **Prayer Requests**

If you wish to update a prayer request on our list or to add new requests, please use the "My Prayer" cards in the pews and/or call or email Dana Bourne, Church Secretary (419-257-3253 StLukesNB@gmail.com). Thank you for your assistance in keeping our Prayer List up-to-date.



## ❖ Worship Ministries ❖

### SUNDAY, October 1

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*  
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*  
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### SUNDAY, October 8

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*  
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*  
Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### SUNDAY, October 15

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Olivia Matthes*  
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*  
Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### SUNDAY, October 22

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*  
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*  
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### SUNDAY, October 29 Reformation Sunday

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *JoLynn Stewart*  
Acolyte: *Avery Wymer*  
Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### SUNDAY, November 5

### All Saints' Sunday

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*  
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*  
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### SUNDAY, November 12

### Annual Meeting & Dinner

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Carl Lieser*  
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*  
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### Altar Guild

October - JoLynn Stewart, Jill Guy  
November - JoLynn Stewart, Jill Guy

### ❖ Worship Gifts ❖

### Altar Flowers

October 1 - [available for signup](#)  
October 8 - [available for signup](#)  
October 15 - Nancy & Jim Wymer  
October 22 - Peg & Bill Roberts  
October 29 - [available for signup](#)  
November 5 - Arica & Matt Matthes  
November 12 - Bob Kelley

### Altar Candles

October - Ruth McKee  
November - [available for signup](#)

### Sunday Bulletins

October - Nancy & Jim Wymer  
November - [available for signup](#)

### Newsletter

October - Nancy & Jim Wymer  
November - [available for signup](#)





# October 2023



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Baltimore, Ohio

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Pentecost 18</b> <b>1</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b>	<b>2</b> Staff Meeting 9:30	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Central Conference Women's Gathering 9:00
<b>Pentecost 19</b> <b>8</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b>	<b>9</b> Staff Meeting 9:30	<b>10</b> NBACM IHOP Noon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Pentecost 20</b> <b>15</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b> Church Council 11:30	<b>16</b> Staff Meeting 9:30	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Pentecost 21</b> <b>22</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b>	<b>23</b> Staff Meeting 9:30	 <b>Newsletter            Deadline</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> NWOS Women's Gathering 11:30
<b>Reformation</b> <b>29</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b>	<b>30</b> Staff Meeting 9:30	<b>31</b> <b>Reformation            Day</b> ~~~~~ <b>Happy            Halloween!</b>	<b>November 1 is All Saints' Day.            November 5 is All Saints' Sunday            November 6 the church office will be closed.</b>			

**November 5, 2023**

