

# The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

December 2023

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.**

## In Search of a Pastor

The call committee from St. LUKE'S and ST. JOHN'S met on November 16th and went over the call document. It is a lengthy document that we will need to carefully prepare. We may need to meet with the congregations through survey and conversations during the next few months to help clarify what we are looking for in our next pastor. We have scheduled two meetings each month for the next few months in order to complete the document. We pledge to do our best.



## The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!

This year's Advent Study theme is based on where and how we encounter God. Each session of the study will explore one way we encounter God, from revelation to proclamation. At this time when our world bears the wounds of conflict, hunger and disaster, it can be challenging to uncover where and how God is at work. Yet we know in faith that God is actively working in the world, transforming, reconciling, sustaining, and inciting us to ever-greater acts of justice and mercy. Pick up an Advent calendar and study guide on the Information Table at the church.

*December 24, 2023*

*St. John's Lutheran Church in McComb*

*8:00 a.m. Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent*

*7:00 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve*

*St. Luke's Lutheran Church in North Baltimore*

*10:15 a.m. Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent*

*9:15 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve Music*

*9:30 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve Worship*

*Both services in person and on Facebook*

**Poinsettias** – due to time constraints, 20 poinsettias have been ordered. The cost is \$14.00. To reserve one for yourself please send your check to the church and designate how many plants you would like and how you would like them designated in the church bulletins. Thank you.

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## **NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty**

**DECEMBER** requested donations include mac & cheese, pasta and pasta sauces.

**JANUARY** requested donations include canned fruits, veggies, and soups.

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### *Bulletins, Candles, and Newsletters*

Thank you to all who helped to support the work of the church through gifts to our Special Fund in 2023. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2024 are posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Also, the opportunity to sign up to provide flowers to the glory of God for our worship services. Thank you for sharing your blessings.



The **Spring Gathering** of the Central Conference Lutheran Women will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Findlay. The theme is “Earth Day,” and Lauren Sandhu from the University of Findlay Biology Department will be our guest speaker. Mark your calendar NOW and keep watch for further details.

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## **St Luke’s Lutheran Church**

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 19, 2023

### **Opening**

JoLynn called the regular meeting of the St Luke’s Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 11:50am.

### **Attendance**

**Present** – JoLynn Stewart, Suzanne Bucher, Janet Goldner, Clay McCartney, Tracey Pritts, Bryant Matthes

**Absent** – None

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

- October 2023 minutes accepted – Motion by Clay, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janet. All approved.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Nothing to Report

### **Statistical Report**

- Went over the member count & attendance.



## President/Vice-President's Report

- There was a suggestion that St Luke's begin a collection of underwear, socks, etc. for the school(s). We will be doing something like this soon, but may not be able to complete by Christmas because of the short amount of time until the holidays.

## Good News Amen Report

- Nothing to Report

## Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his October report showing \$7,538.41 in the black.
- Clay's report was accepted - Motion by Bryant, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracey. All approved.

## Property Committee Report

- Bryant updated us on the new lighting. Eric Long will be installing our new lighting and will be able to get to it at the first of the year.

## Other Committees/Announcements

- Nothing to Report

## Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team

- The Call Committee meeting, along with Pam Van Mooy (Scribe) met for the first time earlier this month and will meet again in December.
  - Call Committee: Karen Krauss, Brittany Vanaman, Jack Sterling and Lois Heilman (St Luke's), and John Sharninghouse and Jerry McCullough (St John's).

## Unfinished Business

- Fundraising Dinner was Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>
  - 52 were in church & 49 were present for the dinner (includes 4 small children).
  - Janet announced at dinner that \$5,840 was raised so far and she expects more and over \$6,000 has now been raised as of the date of this meeting.
- Janet has an EMT lined up to come to St Luke's for ADT training.
- Bryant is working on getting smoke detectors.

## New Business

- Notice of Transfer was received from Tiffany Mika to transfer membership from Church of the Good Shepherd to St Luke's Lutheran Church.
  - Motion by Tracey to accept Tiffany Mika into membership, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Suzanne. All approved.
- Christmas Letter/Appeal – JoLynn will work on this for December.
- There will be no council meeting in December.
- Church council officers will be installed on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

## Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:00pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, January 21, 2024 @ 11:30am

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

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Dear Friends in Christ,

*“You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted”* (Psalm 40:5)

The Psalmist recognizes the goodness and the generosity of God, whose deeds and thoughts are uncountable. Though that didn't keep generations of Sunday School students from trying their very best to tally up God's gifts. I am sure you can recall the tune.

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God has done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*

During these days after Thanksgiving, I have not counted God's many blessings, but I have pondered a few of them. And in the pondering, I find that I am so very grateful.

I have pondered the blessing of **Baptism**, and the honor of officiating at Rome Josiah Nelson's Baptism at Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville. Rome is the son of Josiah and Ellie and the grandson of Pastor Meg Boger.

I have pondered the blessing of **Ecumenical Partnerships**, and the honor of preaching and presiding at Pastor Mark Kuhlman's recent Invitation to Extended Service. Pastor Mark is a United Methodist Pastor who is serving at Trilby United Methodist Church and at Messiah Lutheran Church in Point Place.

I have pondered the blessing of **Global Connections**, and the honor of worshipping with and learning from the people of God in the *Iglesia Luterana Mexicana* (Mexican Lutheran Church) this past week.

The psalmist is right. God's blessings are too numerous to be counted. But they can be pondered. And in the pondering, we can give thanks.

Bless you,  
Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



Photo: Detroit Half Marathon 2023

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



**WE GIVE THANKS:** for Christ the King; for Pastor Elizabeth Hadler and SAM Bob Fett, sent by God to help us along our journey; for the saints who have gone before and those who live among us today. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, 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:** Cali, Howard Till, Jim Heize, Emelyn, Isabella, 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](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)). Thank you for your assistance in keeping our Prayer List up-to-date.

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## ❖ Worship Ministries ❖

### **SUNDAY, December 3** First Sunday of Advent

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*  
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*  
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **SUNDAY, December 10** Second Sunday of Advent

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *Bishop Daniel Beaudoin*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Olivia Mathes*  
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*  
Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **SUNDAY, December 17** Third Sunday of Advent

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*  
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*  
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **SUNDAY, December 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *JoLynn Stewart*  
Acolyte: *Avery Wymer*  
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **SUNDAY, December 24** Christmas Eve

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Carl Lieser*  
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*  
Ushers: *Jo Lynn & Don Stewart*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **SUNDAY, December 31** Christmas 1

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*  
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*  
Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

Council Members will be installed on  
January 7, 2024

### **Altar Guild**

December - *Karen Krauss, Pat Wheeler*  
January - *Karen Krauss, Pat Wheeler*

## ❖ Worship Gifts ❖

### **Altar Flowers**

December 3 - [\*available for signup\*](#)  
December 10 - [\*available for signup\*](#)  
December 17 - *Peg & Bill Roberts*  
December 24 - [\*available for signup\*](#)  
December 31 - [\*available for signup\*](#)  
January 7 - [\*available for signup\*](#)  
January 14 - [\*available for signup\*](#)

### **Altar Candles**

December - *Carol Williams*  
January - [\*available for signup\*](#)

### **Sunday Bulletins**

December - *Carol Williams*  
January - [\*available for signup\*](#)

### **Newsletter**

December - [\*available for signup\*](#)  
January - [\*available for signup\*](#)



### **SUNDAY, January 7, 2024** **Baptism of our Lord**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Tracey Pritts*  
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*  
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



# December 2023



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!</p>					1	2	
<p><i>Advent 1</i>      3</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Call Committee 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	
<p><i>Advent 2</i>      10</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Call Committee 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	
<p><i>Advent 3</i>      17</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	
<p><i>Advent 4 &amp; Christmas Eve</i>      24</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15 &amp; 9:15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Church Office Closed</p> </div>		<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>
<p><i>Proper</i>      31</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15</b></p>	<p><i>Blessings for a Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>Rejoice evermore! Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.</p>						