

The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

April 2023



A Reflection from Pastor Rob

Is God telling us to go back to “normal”?

And [the men from Emmaus] worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God. Luke 24:52-53

When Jesus and the disciples had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to Jesus, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” John 21:15

Years ago, there was a tornado warning issued for my neighborhood. I was doing yard work when the storm hit. When the sirens blared, I stopped my work and went to the basement. An hour later, after the storm cleared and the sun emerged, I went right back to my work.

It was a different story for the disciples of Jesus after this crucifixion. **After Jesus died and was buried, the disciples had to figure out what to do.** Cleopas and his friend tried to go back to their hometown, Emmaus. Peter, the fisherman, tried fishing again in Galilee.

But, try as they might, they couldn't do it. **They couldn't go back to normal.**

Peter, Cleopas, and the other disciples spent three years with Jesus. Not only had they learned new skills, they were changed by the experience. Without Jesus, Peter claimed he was a fisherman again. And yet, when Jesus returned, **Peter realized he was destined for something new and different** than fishing. Peter, Cleopas, and the other disciples tried to “go back to normal”, but they had been **forever changed by their three years with Jesus.**

We are now three years since the pandemic lockdowns began in 2020. And, like the disciples after Jesus' resurrection, **we are faced with the question, “What now?”**

We can try like Peter and the others to go back to normal. We can try to do what comes easiest to us; what feels comfortable after three years of COVID-19.

(continued)



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

Interim Pastor Rob Johnson
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.

But returning to normal after a pandemic is not the same as going back to yard work after a tornado warning. Unlike the warning, which turned out to be a temporary disruption, everyone of us reading this article has been changed by the pandemic. Further, if you don't feel you have changed personally, you certainly sense changes in the people and in the world around you.

Going back to normal is impossible because our world has changed.

Easter is our annual reminder that God calls us into something deeper and more meaningful than "getting back to normal." If anything, Jesus is not normal. Rather than avoid the changes brought on by the pandemic, **the Resurrection of Jesus is a necessary reminder that, out of death comes new life.** A seed cannot grow without the soil being broken.

Despite all we have been through in the pandemic, what new opportunities do you think we have as a church to grow new life in the community?

In God's Peace,

Pastor Rob



Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2 we will prepare for the holiest of weeks. As we journey on with praise as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem, we remember, with sadness, the suffering and death of Jesus, but with hope in our hearts.

8:00 a.m. in person @ St. John's, McComb
10:15 a.m. in person and on Facebook @ St. Luke's, North Baltimore

Wednesday, April 5, the last Lenten Bible Study. Soup Supper @ **6:00 p.m.** with dessert and Bible study @ **7:00 p.m.** @ St. Luke's

Maundy Thursday, April 6, – on this night we begin the solemn journey of the 3 days that changed the world and our own lives.

5:00 p.m. @ St. John's, McComb
7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke's, North Baltimore

Good Friday, Taize Service, April 7, – we gather on this most holy of days to remember the passion of our Lord. We will hear the words, pray for our salvation, and lift our voices in praise to the Lord most high.

7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke's, North Baltimore

Easter Sunday, April 9, – on this day we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and the enduring hope of life forever!

8:00 a.m. Worship @ St. John's, McComb

9:00 a.m. Breakfast @ St. John's

9:00 a.m. Breakfast @ St. Luke's

10:15 a.m. Worship @ St. Luke's, NB



STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Ariana Melendez a Student of the Month for February at NB Middle School.

Ushers to return to worship

At its meeting on March 12, the Church Council voted to begin receiving the offering during worship after Easter. We are in need of more folks to add to our list of current ushers. We would like to have 4 ushers each Sunday. If are you are willing to participate in worship by serving as an usher, please notify the church office @ 419-257-3253 or stlukesnb@gmail.com. WE NEED YOU!

Graduation Day is coming (May 21) and we want to recognize our graduates on **May 7**. Please give the church office names of family members who **are graduating or have graduated from high school and institutions of higher learning** (since last June). Please submit information right away. Thank you.



Bulletins+Candles+Newsletters



Thank you to all who helped to support the work of the church through gifts to our Special Fund. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2023 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.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

With the ending of the SAP Program, that was instituted during Covid-19, the food pantry is going to need your help more than ever before. Please give generously.

APRIL requested donations include canned meats.

MAY requested donations include laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper

Served the first quarter of 2023:

Jan: 19 families/41 people

Feb: 19 families/44 people

Mar: 16 families/36 people



Thank you for your continued support of the vital community ministry



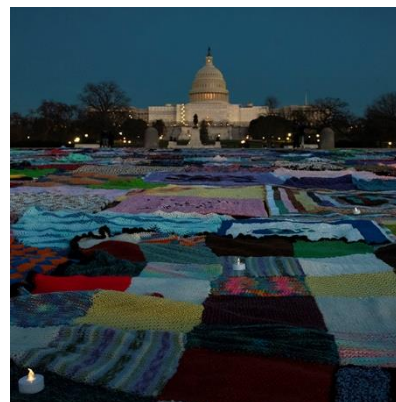
March 2023

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

www.ELCA.org

Living Lutheran: "Living Out the Gospel in Tangible Ways"

"According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 'on any given night, more than half a million people sleep in shelters and unsheltered places not meant for human habitation, such as cars and encampments.'" In the lead feature from the March-April issue of [Living Lutheran](#), read how God's people around the country are raising awareness of this crisis, providing safe places to sleep, serving meals, creating welcoming environments, and more. Download the [study guide](#).



Lutherans Restoring Creation worship service

All are welcome to join and share a creation-focused worship service offered by Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC). We celebrate Earth Day and pray with others from across the nation. The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, president of United Lutheran Seminary, will provide a sermon based on the lectionary readings for April 23. All components of this full, noncommunion service will be available for download by April 9 for congregations who register ahead of time at bit.ly/2023LRCEarthDay. The service will also premiere on YouTube at 9 a.m. Eastern on April 22 — be sure to subscribe to LRC’s channel.

Go to elca.org and search “Seeds Monthly” to sign up to receive the “Seeds Monthly” in your email box.

Boldcafe

Join us for community via Zoom at our next Boldcafe Monthly Dinner, Thursday, April 13 at 7 pm (CST). The Rev. Jennifer Hackbarth will host our time together and lead our discussion about risking to rest. Join us!



boldcafe.org

Monthly dinner
with Boldcafe
writers + friends
(B.Y.O.D.)



**Thursday,
April 13
@ 7 pm (CST)**

<https://www.boldcafe.org/dinner/>



On that first Easter morning God filled earth with hope so real, joy so pure, and love so pure – our hearts still rejoice today!



Easter reminds us that hope must never be lost for as dark as the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it.



The Story is Easter is the story of God’s wonderful window of divine surprise. May you find the renewal of hope, health, love and spirit of God.

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

We Love to Tell the Story

April 15
9:00am to 1:00pm.

Spring Conference

- a light breakfast
- a short worship service led by Pr. Art Wilde
- Kaitlyn Kniss— Women's Resource Center's work in Hancock County
- all followed by a lunch and fun!

In-Kind donation of diapers requested

RSVP to Barb Larick
419-422-0499 (home)
419-722-3682 (cell/text)
By April 11th

First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln St.
Findlay OH

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for those who have led, participated, and prepared food for the Wednesday Bible Study during Lent; for God's blessings on Ryan Bullock who is now cancer free. Ryan is a nephew of Carol Williams; for our community of faith, both in person and virtually, with whom we share worship; for the mission and ministry of the Women of the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Steve Pritts, Janet Holloway, Brittany Vanaman, Jim Wymer, Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Eloise Matthes, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams, Rex McCarty.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Larry Thompson Jr., Larry Thompson Sr., Beth Johnson, Gerald Leitch, Patty Webb, Cheryl, Isabella Miller, A.J., Frank Strausbaugh, Bill Bankey, Mike Gorsline, Mavery Breece, Caroline, Mike Lerma, Ethan, Tom Szor, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Sally Eggleston, Catherine Pritts, Ja-nét Moske.

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.

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.

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 ❖

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

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



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader: *JoLynn Stewart*
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader: *Rick Van Mooy*
Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*
Acolyte: *Avery Wymer*
Ushers: *Jill Guy, JoLynn Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader: *Dwight Patterson*
Prayer Leader: *Olivia Matthes*
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*
Ushers: *Hank Matthes, Zach Stewart, JoLynn & Don Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Tracey Pritts*
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney, Pam & Rick Van Mooy*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes, Nancy & Jim Wymer*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

Altar Guild

April - *Karen Krauss, Pat Wheeler*
May - *Karen Krauss, Pat Wheeler*

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

April 2 - [*available for signup*](#)
April 9 - [*available for signup*](#)
April 16 - *Bertha & Jim Carter*
April 23 - [*available for signup*](#)
April 30 - [*available for signup*](#)
May 7 - [*available for signup*](#)
May 14 - [*available for signup*](#)

Altar Candles

April - *Ruth McKee*
May - [*available for signup*](#)

Sunday Bulletins

April - [*available for signup*](#)
May - [*available for signup*](#)

Newsletter

April - [*available for signup*](#)
May - [*available for signup*](#)

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Carl Lieser*
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes, Nancy & Jim Wymer*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*
Acolyte: *Avery Wymer*
Ushers: *Jill Guy, Hank Matthes, Zach Stewart, Don Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



April 2023



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Our worship services are in person and on www.Facebook.com/stlukesnb/</p>						1
Palm Sunday 2 <p>Worship 10:15</p>	3 Staff Meeting 9:30	4	5 <p>Soup Dinner 6 Lenten Devotion with dessert 7</p>	6 <p>Maundy Thursday Worship 7 p.m.</p>	7 <p>Good Friday Worship 7 p.m.</p>	8
Easter Sunday 9 Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15		11 NBACM Noon IHOP	12	13	14	15 Central Conference Women 9 a.m. (see pg. 5)
Easter 2 16 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30	17 Staff Meeting 9:30	18	19	20	21 	22
Easter 3 23 Worship 10:15	24 Staff Meeting 9:30	25	26	27	28	29
Easter 4 30 Worship 10:15						