

August 2023



A Reflection from Pastor Rob

Pastoral Call Survey: What do you expect the next pastor to do?

During the month of March 2023, both congregations took a survey to help congregational leadership better understand your views on needs we have for a pastor and the future.

Last month, I talked about **PART TIME vs. FULL TIME** pastoral leadership. This month, I will reflect on **WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS?**

The survey asked what the **TOP 3 and TOP 5 pastoral skill sets** are needed. Here are the results for each congregation, with each skill set ranked highest to lowest:

| Congregation | Top 3 part time | Top 5 full time |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. John's | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning / leading worship 2. Offering pastoral counseling 3. Participating in community activities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning / leading worship 2. Offering pastoral counseling 3. Empowering members for faithful living 4. Participating in community activities 5. Teaching and training |
| St. Luke's | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning / leading worship 2. Teaching and training 3. Offering pastoral counseling | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning / leading worship 2. Teaching and training 3. Offering pastoral counseling 4. Empowering members for faithful living 5. Participating in the community |

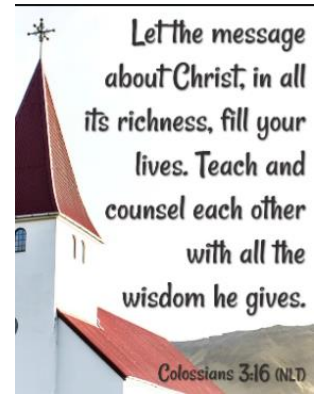
In general, survey participants in both congregations have high expectations for the pastor in **Worship, Pastoral Care, Teaching, and Outreach.**

St. Luke's emphasizes **Teaching.**

St. John's emphasizes **Outreach.**

But that is not all! **What can the next pastor expect from YOU?**

A majority of survey participants in both congregations view the pastor as a **co-worker** in mission. The pastor and congregation do not work together in a vacuum. If the pastor is expected to focus in certain areas, the members **MUST** figure out how to take up the slack in the other areas. Here are the top 4 areas of service, ranked in order highest to lowest, that survey participants said the next pastor can expect from them:



| Congregation | Top 4 Areas of Member Service |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. John's | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for members and community 2. Attend worship at least 2 Sundays per month 3. Learn new ways of loving God and people 4. Donate money / volunteer |
| St. Luke's | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend worship at least 2 Sundays per month 2. Pray for members and community 3. Learn new ways of loving God and people 4. Donate money / volunteer |

In general, the next pastor can expect members of **both congregations to offer prayer, attend worship at least 2 Sundays per month, deepen their love for God and others, and donate money or volunteer.**

Low priority for both congregations: **attending Bible study, building new relationships, and visiting the sick and imprisoned.**

What about you ...

- **What do you expect the next pastor to be and do in your congregation?**
- **What can the next pastor expect from you?**
- **What are some of the challenges you see in meeting these expectations?**

In God's Peace,
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

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.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

AUGUST requested donations include canned meats.

SEPTEMBER requested donations include hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste.



CENTRAL CONFERENCE WOMEN OF THE ELCA



invite you to their fall gathering

Saturday, October 7, from 9-1

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

North Baltimore, Ohio

Sherri Krieger, NWOS Director of Leadership

Development for

ngregational Care, will be our guest speaker.

More details to follow.

NORTHWEST OHIO WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Invite you to the

2023 Gathering Friday, October 27th

Saturday, October 28th

Findlay Inn, Findlay, Ohio



Featured Speaker—Friday -Dr. Lisa Chavers, "Hearing God's Rhythm and Answering the Call"

Guest Speaker on Saturday—Nancy Helmke with Ohio Grain Train

For full information, including a registration form, check the table outside the church office or call the office to have one emailed or mailed to you.

Living Lutheran: Room at the Inn

In the *Living Lutheran* July/August lead feature by Anne Basye, read how ELCA ministries are opening their doors to refugees and asylum-seekers, from providing them with shelter, clothing and necessities to setting them up with English classes to connecting them with lawyers and advocacy in the court system. ELCA ministries are working to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers don't just survive but thrive.

Accompanying migrants and asylum-seekers is a relationship, not a project, says Joanne Engquist, pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Seattle. "It's going to be years and years, not months and months. But it is absolutely transforming for our community of faith and for our sense of what God calls us to do and to be." [Read the article](#) and download the [study guide](#).

St Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Opening

JoLynn called the regular meeting of the St Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, July 16, 2023, at 11:32am.

Attendance

Present – JoLynn Stewart, Suzanne Bucher, Janet Goldner, Bryant Matthes, Pastor Rob

Absent – Emily Meyerson, Clay McCartney, Tracey Pritts

Bryant proposed that we suspend the agenda until August, and we will discuss the July items at our August meeting. Everyone was in favor of this.

Items Addressed

Janet suggested celebrating St Luke's 126th anniversary around our church bells ringing on the evening during Bible School – since the actual date falls during Bible School, and then celebrating after church with cake on Sunday, July 30th.

Emily Meyerson turned in her resignation on July 16, 2023. JoLynn will continue on as interim President and discussions on her replacement will begin at our August council meeting.

Call Process - Pastor Rob advised that in any congregation that has had a long-term pastor, it's always advised to take our time. Also, figuring out what to do after Covid lockdown, etc. Pastor's approach was to not form a transition team – hands off approach. Let the congregations breath for a while. Instead, a mutual ministry team was formed. Also, to conduct surveys. Pastor Rob relied on the MM team to talk us through transition and he admits he did not commit to the regular call process. Now comfortable establishing a call committee rather than to form a transition team – representation from both St Luke's and St John's.

Bryant updated us on our parking lot paving. Quote from Morlock Asphalt to redo the entire lot was \$39,900.00. Of course, we won't be doing this, so Bryant will be looking at what other options might include and will be getting some advise from a local engineer that he knows who will come over and inspect our parking lot.

Janet advised that both Lois Heilman and Carl Lieser approached her to assist her with the offering counting, so Janet has been training them both and things are going well.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 12:14pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, August 20, 2023 @ 11:30am

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher



Seeds Monthly

Who is a “real” American?



In her monthly column for *Living Lutheran*, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton addresses the scourge of Christian nationalism in the U.S., calling it “a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy.” She writes, “An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.” The ELCA supports [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#) and

encourages you to participate in our civic life so that we might work together for the common good.

My husband and I live in Skokie, Ill., a diverse community. Our neighbors to the west are an octogenarian Taiwanese Evangelical couple who regularly order meals from Kosher to Go. Our neighbors to the east are a Ukrainian and Russian multigenerational family. Our grocery stores have both kosher and halal departments. As I drive past the elementary school on my way to work, I see moms and dads in jeans along with women in saris or hijabs and men in thobes or yarmulkes. More than 90 languages are spoken in the homes of our school district. We pay our taxes, mow our (tiny) lawns, worship, raise our children and pretty much get along in our little village of Skokie.

Late one afternoon a few years ago I was finishing up yard work. I had been weeding and trimming all day. I was tired and grass-stained. Just one more pile of leaves needed to be swept up. I noticed a woman walking toward me so I hurried to get the sidewalk cleared. She stopped and told me that she had seen me working all day and thought I might be too tired to prepare supper. She had made a meal for me and my husband. It was during Ramadan—the month when Muslims fast from food and water during the day and engage in prayer and acts of charity. This was her act of charity and generosity. She smiled and walked away. I was stunned.

There has been an alarming rise in hate speech and violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this country. At the same time, we’ve seen an increased polarization among us, even in our dear church. There is a movement to define what it means to be a “real American.” Some would define this as white, Christian and native born. When Lutheran immigrants first came to this country in the 18th and 19th centuries, they weren’t considered real Americans. They didn’t speak English or fit in with the Deist, Calvinist religious majority. They were “other” and therefore suspect. German Lutheran immigrants weren’t considered white when they settled here. Neither were Irish, Italians or Poles. Catholics and Jews were considered an alien threat.

Read the rest of the story at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2023/06/who-is-a-real-american/>

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

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for all who come together to do God's work in our communities and our world; for guidance and care of the staff of the Northwestern Ohio Synod; for our partnership with the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church in McComb; and for all those who have served and are serving to protect our freedoms. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Pam Van Mooy, Janet Holloway, Jim Wymer, Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Bill Okuly, Keven Bickle, Colton, Shirley Hollowell, Dolores Bucher, Beth Johnson, 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.

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 ❖

SUNDAY, August 6

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Tracey Pritts*
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*
Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, August 13

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, August 20

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

SUNDAY, August 27

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

SUNDAY, September 3

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

SUNDAY, September 10

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

Altar Guild

August - *Nancy Wymer, Arica Matthes*
September - *Nancy Wymer, Arica Matthes*

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

August 6 - [available for signup](#)
August 13 - [available for signup](#)
August 20 - [available for signup](#)
August 27 - *Jen Carter*
September 3 - [available for signup](#)
September 10 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

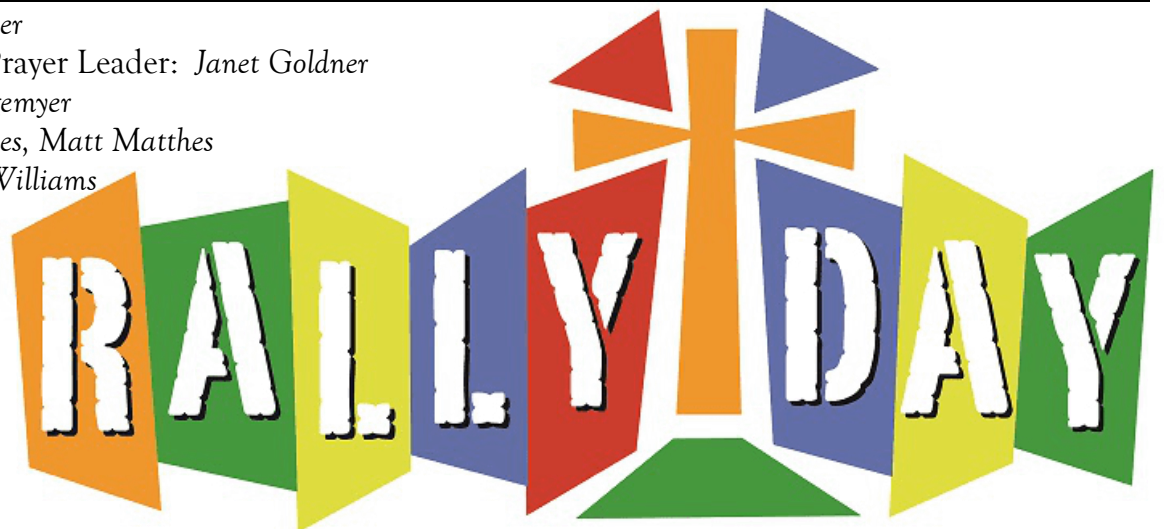
August - [available for signup](#)
September - [available for signup](#)

Sunday Bulletins

August - [available for signup](#)
September - [available for signup](#)

Newsletter

August - [available for signup](#)
September - [available for signup](#)





August 2023

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

| SUNDAY | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | 1 Dana Vacation | 2 | 3 | 4 Dana Conference | 5 |
| <i>Proper 10</i> 6 Worship 10:15 | 7 Staff Meeting 9:30 | 8 NBACM Noon IHOP | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| <i>Proper 11</i> 13 Worship 10:15 | 14 Staff Meeting 9:30 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Dana Conference | 19 |
| <i>Proper 12</i> 20 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30 | 21 Staff Meeting 9:30 | 22 | 23  School Begins | 24 | 25  Newsletter Deadline | 26 |
| <i>Proper 13</i> 27 Worship 10:15 | 28 Staff Meeting 9:30 Office Closed | 29 | 30 | 31 |  Happy Labor Day weekend | |