

The GOOD NEWS Letter



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

October 2025



GOD'S HARVEST

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

SAM Paul Brooks
Pastor Ken Pollitx
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.**

The land yields its harvest, God, our God, blesses us. That's psalm 67:6. Given that I'm seeing clouds of dust and trucks in fields, not to mention many soybean fields that are that color of pale yellow that signals it's time to check the moisture, like anybody thinks that's a problem this year. I have even seen several fields of corn being taken off. It is that time of the year. A time



when a lot of things go on the back burner so that the harvest can continue, often even at night. The effort is amazing. In Mathew 9 we read, *the harvest is plentiful but the workers few. Ask the lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest fields.* I can remember the stories both my grandfathers told about threshing back in the day, about all the men working and the meals prepared by the women, good hearty food. I have been around the Amish when they harvest, wow - a lot of work, no complaining, just many working. More hands make the work lighter.

Here in the United States, we very seldom work in unison anymore. Everyone has their own equipment, their own agenda, their own marketing plan, their own system for harvesting. In Galatians 6 we find, *do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked, a man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction, whoever sows to please the spirit, from the spirit will reap eternal life.* Let us not become weary in doing good, for at a proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Should we cooperate more? James 4 says, *peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.* We all try, I hope, to be peaceful with our neighbors. I do know that in most neighborhoods, if someone falls ill, many will come together to do the planting or harvest, that's a wonderful thing, it feels good, its community, a shadow of the threshing of former times. But sometimes,..... there's that 1 guy who never shows up and is never in a good mood even when we see him at the restaurant. And yet, he will inform us of a bountiful harvest. Does that feel right? Mathew 5 can help, *that you may be children of your father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.* So as much as we may grumble, we find that much, much is beyond our pay grade. Perhaps God

is calling for fewer judges and more harvesters. *Out of his fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace already given*, John 1:16. So in this time of harvest, perhaps focus on where the blessings before us actually came from, give God a nod. I leave you with 3 John 1:2.

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Faith, hope, and love – Paul

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

OCTOBER requested donations include canned fruits, veggies, and soups.

NOVEMBER requested donations include soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste.



Served the third quarter of 2025:

Jul: 15 families/31 people

Aug: 17 families/36 people

Sep: 17 families/35 people

Let us all be co-workers with God in this mission of the church. God is good!

Gathering to Listen

On Saturday, September 6, 30 women and men gathered in Luther Hall for the Fall Gathering of the Central Conference Lutheran Women. We were greeted with breakfast snacks provided by Central Conference President, Carol Williams. Pastor Denny Maurer gave the opening prayer. Janet Goldner led the hymn singing. Following a short business meeting, we were entertained by a surprise guest Louie, who shared about his problem with listening.



SAM Paul Brooks offered a brief devotion. Communion was shared and Bishop Daniel Beaudoin presented a program on the Art of Listening. The program included an exercise on remaining absolutely quiet and still for 5 minutes. We all agreed that this was hard to do, but by practicing this activity you prepare yourself for listening to God. Following the program, we had a delicious lunch, followed by a sending hymn and dismissal. Our in-kind donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and laundry supplies were delivered to the First Step Domestic Violence Services in Fostoria. Watch for information about our Spring Gathering on April 25, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Findlay.



FALL

The changing of the seasons...It is one of the things that makes me feel like I can see God working his wonders. Summer is a time for growing and playing, but fall signals a change to harvest and learning. School has started and farmers are out in their fields collecting the corn and beans they planted in the spring. God's wonderful work is showing in the harvest. Next, we know comes the cooler days and longer nights that signal the winter is at hand. Fall also means the Fundraising Dinner and setting a budget for the coming year. Council is already working on these activities.

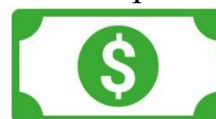
In a recent Old Testament Lesson God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. He told him what he wanted him to do. He wanted him to go to the Pharaoh and ask for the release of the Israelites who were in slavery. Although Moses was listening, he was also suggesting God pick someone else. That sounds like us today! When God speaks to us about what he wants us to do, do we suggest that God find someone else to do the work? Or do we just pretend we don't hear what God is saying. We will need to listen to God tell us what we should do with our church finances and projects to keep our church property in good condition. We will need to elect council members, decide about future VBS, possibly adjust our giving, and make our services to the community a blessing. We all need to listen to God and hear what he is saying to each of us. Don't ask God to pick someone else. If he is speaking to you, you need to do as He asks. We pray that, as we move through this change in seasons, we are open to God's request for each of us!

Blessings, Pam Van Mooy

God's Work. Our Hands. - At the end of the Summer we completed our first God's Work, Our Hands project. We had been collecting items for the Thanksgiving Bags for the NB Food Pantry. We assembled the bags on Rally Day and prepared 25 bags. Members of the congregation helped assemble the bags. Thank you to everyone who donated items or money, helped put the bags together, or prepare the recipe cards. Together we did God's Work for our community!

The second project was during the month of September. We collected underwear, socks and pull ups for youngsters at Powell Elementary. The items were taken to Powell at the end of September. We had collected these items several years ago so it was time to restock their cupboard. We were pleased with how many items were brought in. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this project.

Our October project will be to collect money to buy manual can openers that are easier for senior citizens or handicapped people to operate. We will donate these to the NB Food Pantry. There are times when people coming to the food pantry are not able to take canned food because they have no way of opening the cans. It is something that most of us take for granted. We will purchase these can openers after we collect the money. You can use the pink envelope in the pew holders for your donation, just mark it "can openers".



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 11:47am.

Attendance

Present – Pam VanMooy, Suzanne Bucher, Carl Lieser, JoLynn Stewart, Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes, SAM Paul Brooks

Absent – Clay McCartney

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

- August 2025 minutes accepted.
- Motion by Bryant to approve June's minutes, 2nd by Carl. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Carl submitted his August Accounting of Offerings report.
- Motion by Matt to approve Carl's report, 2nd by JoLynn. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his August report. We are \$5,166.20 in the black.
- Motion by Matt to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Bryant. All approved.

President's Report

- Pam met the Food Pantry Director to pick up the Thanksgiving bags and she was so happy and excited what we have contributed.

Vice-President's Report

- Nothing to Report

Discipleship Committee Report

- Nothing to Report

Property Committee Report

- Bryant is waiting to hear back from the Village of NB on getting the permit to start the 1st phase of our parking lot.

Pastor's Report

- Paul will begin rotation with the other area pastors leading a service at Briar Hill Nursing Home which is held on Sunday's at 1:30. There is a service on both the assisted living and skilled side.
- Paul discussed the changes in our service due to the Lutheran lectionary.

Other Committees/Announcements

- Nothing to Report

Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team

- Nothing to Report

Unfinished Business

- St. Luke's Constitution Review & Update
 - A “working” copy of St. Luke's Constitution was handed out to council members to review, highlight, and make notes to any areas that may need some attention given to, and return the booklet to Paul.
 - These changes will be brought to and voted on at a future congregational meeting.
- Vacation Bible School 2026
 - Paul and council members talked about next year's VBS and the possibility of pursuing combining our VBS with other area VBS's beginning next year and hopefully rotate between the churches.
- Wood County Committee on Aging
 - The NB site at St. Luke's will be opening back up on Monday, September 15, 2025. The new site manager is Scott Gross.
 - The WCCA Sign is still being worked out.
- Parking Lot Project Phase I
 - Waiting to hear from the Village of NB.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

New Business

- Council went over the proposed 2025 budget. This will be voted on at the October meeting.
- **Fundraising Dinner – Sunday, November 9, 2025**
- **Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 16, 2025**
- Council approved a chair mat for the church office.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for August.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:50pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, October 12, 2025 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

WHAT IS THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY?

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.

The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.

MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for the opportunities to share meals together and for all those who prepared the meal for today. Blessed Rally Day!; our church family, our fellowship, and all of God's gifts in this place and time; God's call to partnership with the Wood County Committee on Aging and the North Baltimore Senior Center; our Church Council members who work diligently, giving of their time and talents for the well-being of our congregation. Thanks

be to God!

MEMBERS: Karen Krauss, Lisa Claybaugh, Bertha Carter, Eloise Matthes, Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wymer, John Stewart, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Mike, Riley Guy, Dennis Bauer, Anita Roberts, Amy Stewart, Nickie Whitman, Eli Swartz, Mr. Doherty, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, 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, October 5

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Pam Van Mooy
Ushers: JoLynn & Don Stewart
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, October 12

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Tiffany Mika
Ushers: Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthew
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, October 19

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Dwight Patterson
Ushers: Nancy & Jim Wymer
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, October 26 Reformation Sunday

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Rick Van Mooy
Ushers: Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, November 2 All Saints Sunday

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Janet Gldner
Ushers: Pam & Rick Van Mooy
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, November 9

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Carl Lieser
Ushers: Jill Guy, Zach Stewart
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, November 16

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Tracey Pritts
Ushers: JoLynn & Don Stewart
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, November 23 Christ the King

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Karen Krauss
Ushers: Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, November 30 First Sunday of Advent

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Pam Van Mooy
Ushers: Nancy & Jim Wymer Videographer: Beth Williams

Altar Guild

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

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

October 5 - [available for signup](#)
October 12 - [available for signup](#)
October 19 - Nancy & Jim Wymer
October 26 - Peg & Bill Roberts
November 2 - Arica & Matt Matthes
November 9 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

October - Nancy & Jim Wymer
November - Beth & Clay McCartney

Sunday Bulletins

October - Nancy & Jim Wymer
November - Beth & Clay McCartney

Newsletter

October - Nancy & Jim Wymer
November - Beth & Clay McCartney



October 2025

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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is Clergy Appreciation Month			1	2	3	4
<i>Pentecost 17</i> 5 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	6	7 Staff Meeting 10:00	8 Office Hours 1pm-4pm	9	10	11
<i>Pentecost 18</i> 12 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30	13	14 Staff Meeting 10:00	15	16 Boss's Day	17 Church Office Closed	18
<i>Pentecost 19</i> 19 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	20	21 Staff Meeting 10:00	22	23	24	25
<i>Reformation Sunday</i> 26 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	 NOVEMBER Newsletter Deadline	28 Staff Meeting 10:00	29	30	Reformation Day!  Halloween	