

The GOOD NEWS Letter



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

November 2025

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.**



We can do it!

Fall is here! The time has changed, the temperature has changed, we actually had some frost Saturday. Don't you just love the seasons? In Ohio we can say, if you don't like the weather wait 20 minutes. Isn't change wonderful? It brings new clothing, new colors, new habits, new life, I embrace change, how about you? If we look around and observe we will find that change is constant, in almost everything. God and his endless grace and love do not change, however our perspective on God does, we change. One of the ways we may change is in hearing or reading the Bible. The Bible is all about our (human) perspective changing, of seeing and experiencing God, growing and trusting, failing and repenting. There are a lot of events that have been included in our 66 books. I never counted all of the events nor do I feel the need but it's important to be exposed to them.

You may have noticed that since September we have been doing these rather long Old Testament readings and that the sermon will often focus on those. What is going on? CHANGE!!!! In our beloved ELCA Lutheran Church we have options. Options for our order of worship, options as to music, options for our prayers and options for our lectionary. These options work with times of the year, local traditions and current needs. The lectionary, what Bible books and verses we work with on any given Sunday, is actually on a cycle. The prior one, the standard lectionary, was an A B C, 3-year cycle so that every 3 years you were hearing the same readings... again. This lectionary has been in use since the early 60s. About 20 years ago a new lectionary was approved, a narrative lectionary. It begins in September with the Old Testament and goes through the Bible, not jumping around, and then in December we get into the New Testament. There are so many wonderful stories and events, parables and lessons that we have heard before or maybe not. In the ABC standard lectionary we were hearing the same events, stories over and over, which is wonderful, however what about all those other stories, lessons and parables that were not included in those readings? One is not more valuable than the other. In an effort to focus on areas that we were not hearing on a regular basis I proposed a change to the church council

and they agreed to proceed. The narrative lectionary is a 1-2-3-4-year cycle so you will hear the same things less often.

I can sense your look, so if these are on a cycle, the same books, same verses every 3 or 4 years, is a pastor or SAM going to recycle their sermons? Maybe. When you read a portion of the bible what sticks out to you? What speaks to you in that particular moment of your life? Now if we go back to those same verses 6 months later, we find it fresh because where we are in our life is not the same place, our focus, our situation, our needs are not the same. That's why we can recycle our readings and they will still be as if they are new, WE change. And even as we are created in God's image and as Christ lives within each of us, we are still a stiff-necked people. We are a people with an inclination to sin. Jesus calls us to follow him, not ourselves, and not the things of this world. We are called to repent to turn around and go the other way. We are called to change. We are forgiven.

May the God of love who sent his son Jesus Christ for us, all of us, bless you in all your change.

Paul Brooks



The word November means nine and it was the 9th month in the old Romulus calendar from roughly 750 B.C. It just kept its name in the Julian and Gregorian calendars after they added January and February. It is a busy month leading to the holiday season.

All Saints Day is November 1 and **Daylight Savings Time** ends on November 2nd. We have **Election Day** and **Veteran's Day** in November. **Thanksgiving** is November 27th this year and **Advent** begins November 30th. At St. Luke's November brings the **Fund Raising Dinner** on November 9th and the **Annual Church Meeting** on November 16th.

November is also filled with quiet mystery and deep reflection. Found in the year between the beautiful colors of autumn and the stillness of winter, it offers more than the weather changes. It is a time of transformation and preparation for what is ahead. This shift reflects the journey of life – a time to shed old habits and reflect and prepare for new beginnings. Trees lose their leaves exposing bare branches. This can remind us to let go which is so necessary for new growth. This is also a time for inner reflection. It is an opportunity to pause and prepare for renewal. A theme of GRATITUDE shines during November, especially with celebrations like Thanksgiving. It is a time to pause and appreciate blessings great and small in our lives. Our church also celebrates our blessings during the Fund Raising Meal. Additional contributions are collected for a project and our church family enjoys a dinner prepared and served by church council members. This year is no exception. The council decided that our project will be to redo our parking lot. We will need to do this project in phases, probably over a couple of years. Everyone who contributes knows that all the money raised goes to this project. Our estimate was around \$50,000 but we know that price can and probably will go up. This is a project that has been needed but has continually been put off. November 9th is the dinner after church. You can bring your special contribution that day to church or mail it in the envelope provided in the letter that was sent to you. We hope to get a great start on this project by the generous contributions of our church family.

Blessings in Christ, Pam Van Mooy



Christmas Poinsettias

Yes – it is time to be thinking about Sanctuary decorations for Christmas. Hoens Garden Center in Holland, Ohio, will provide for our poinsettia needs. They will need to have our order by November 12, so please use the form below and place your order NOW. The cost this year is \$15.00 per 6-inch plant. Thank you!

Your Name _____

Designation for the church bulletin

God's Work, Our Hands Project(s)

We worked during the month of October to collect money to buy long handled can openers to donate to the NB Food Pantry for people who might need a can opener. Hand held can openers are not usually expensive but they can be very difficult for handicapped or older people to operate. We found longer handled openers with a crank that we could order, which is why we asked for monetary donations. We have collected \$245 as of this writing and will be ordering as many can openers as we can to donate. The Pantry said they will keep the openers until someone tells them that they don't have one and then they include that with the provisions. Thank you to all who donated toward this project.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

...will be on Sunday, November 16 immediately following worship. Some items of business will be voting on the 2026 church budget and election of officers. Please make every effort to attend. Your vote is important.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

NOVEMBER requested donations include soap, shampoo, deodorant, and tooth-paste.

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

With the state of our nation right now, more and more people will be seeking assistance at our food pantries. Let us all be co-workers with God in this mission of the church. God is good!

Christmas Food Boxes

The Community Food Pantry is requesting of us for the Christmas Boxes – 20 boxes of hot cocoa mix and 20 boxes of Poptarts. These items are needed to be at the church by November 12. If everyone that came to church last Sunday bought one of each these items next week, we will have the project complete! The boxes will be prepared by the Food Pantry. Let's share with our neighbors in this community! Thank you.

A Hymn from the Past

Have you ever had a song stick in your head? Last Sunday we sang one of my favorite old hymns, "The Church's One Foundation", which I remember singing as a child. As the words were sung and then thought about later, I realized that I was hearing these words with new ears. It was speaking to ME. The song was written in the 1860's by Samuel John Stone and it is based on I Corinthians 3:11. The third verse, which talks about schisms and heresies were directly tied to the turmoil in the church during this time period but also speaks to our present times. It also talks about tribulation and tumult and waiting for calm to prevail. Isn't that like our world today?

(continued on page 5)

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 12, 2025

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at 12:00pm.

Attendance

Present – Pam Van Mooy, Matt Matthes, Clay McCartney, Carl Lieser, SAM Paul Brooks

Absent – Suzanne Bucher, JoLynn Stewart, Bryant Matthes

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

- No Report Given

Financial Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his September report. We are \$6,831.49 in the black.
- Motion by Matt to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Carl. All approved.

President's Report

- Nothing to Report

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 is to have a written evaluation completed that will be given to the Synod office. Pam will complete this form.
- All Pastors and SAMs in the conference are encouraged to participate in a Renewal of Vows Ceremony with the Bishop. There is a special service and a synod catered dinner after. The date is Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Paul asked if we would be willing to host this event.
 - Motion by Matt to host this event, 2nd by Clay. All approved.
 - Paul will notify the synod office, WCCOA, and put it on the church calendar.

- The Fall decorations were also discussed. Although they are pretty it was felt that nothing should be placed on the altar except the communion service, bookstand, and candles.

Other Committees/Announcements

- Nothing to Report

Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team

- Nothing to Report

Unfinished Business

- St. Luke's Constitution Review & Update
 - Council members are working on reviewing St. Luke's Constitution to return to Paul.
- 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

- The budget for 2026 was discussed. Clay answered questions from council members. He will prepare a copy for the Congregational meeting. Motion by Matt to accept the budget, 2nd by Carl. All approved.
- A 3% raise was discussed for the church secretary, organist, and SAM. Motion by Matt to give a 3% raise, 2nd by Clay. All approved.
- Pam will be taking over cooking the fundraiser dinner (November 9th) because JoLynn is out of commission. Council members and spouses/friends will need to help set up, serve, and clean up. More details to follow.
- The annual congregational meeting will be held on November 9th after church. We will only need to have one council member replaced (JoLynn) because Matt, Clay, and Suzanne have agreed to run again.
- The date for the November Council meeting was discussed. Carl made a motion to not hold an official meeting in November, 2nd by Matt. All approved. The next meeting will be December 14, 2025.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for September.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 12:40pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Van Mooy

Hymn from the past (continued)

This hymn also gives us hope when we believe that church's foundation is Jesus, one over all the Earth and that we will be saved by His grace. I find particular comfort and hope in the words "that we, like saints before us, will see you face to face." There is so much turmoil and upheaval in the world right now. These words can give us courage and hope to keep our eyes on Jesus and know that He IS our firm foundation. I remember seeing my dad standing tall and singing a little louder

when this old hymn was sung. It had given hope to his generation through many tough times. Its comfort was passed to my generation and hopefully it will still provide hope and strength to the next generation. Jesus truly is our foundation!

Blessing in Christ, Pam Van Moy

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: Janet, and the dedication and voices of our church choir; for Paul and for Pastor Ken for their leadership and their gifts of time and talents for us; for the gift of love and people to share it with; for the promise of life eternal with all of the saints of heaven. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, 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: Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Dennis Bauer, Anita Roberts, Amy Stewart, Nickie Whitman, Jo Mineo, 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 (EvangeliLutheran 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, 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

SUNDAY, December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Tiffany Mika
Ushers: Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

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

SUNDAY, December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Rick Van Mooy
Ushers: Jill Guy, Zach Stewart
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

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

Altar Guild

November - JoLynn Stewart, Jill Guy
December - Karen Krauss, Pat Wheeler

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

November 2 - Arica & Matt Matthes
November 9 - [available for signup](#)
November 16 - [available for signup](#)
November 23 - [available for signup](#)
November 30 - [available for signup](#)
December 7 - [available for signup](#)
December 14 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

November - Beth & Clay McCartney
December - Carol Williams

Sunday Bulletins

November - Beth & Clay McCartney
December - [available for signup](#)

Newsletter

November - Beth & Clay McCartney
December - Carol Williams

LET OUR LIVES BE FULL
OF BOTH
**Thanks
&
Giving**



November 2025



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Honoring our Veterans Thank you for your courage, dedication, and hard work. Thank you to the military families for their support, resilience, and sacrifice.						1 Time change
<i>All Saints'</i> 2 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	3	4 Staff Meeting 10:00	5	6	7	8
<i>Pentecost 22</i> 9 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fund Raising Dinner	10	11  Staff Meeting 10:00	12	13	14	15
<i>Pentecost 23</i> 16 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15 Congregational Meeting	 December Newsletter Deadline	18 Staff Meeting 10:00	19	20	21 Church Office Closed	22
<i>Christ the King</i> 23 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	24	25 Staff Meeting 10:00	26	27 	28	29
<i>Advent 1</i> 30 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after. 					