

# The **GOOD NEWS** Letter



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

**December 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.**

## Hope - Faith - Love

I have been putting the outside things of summer away, the hammocks, the yard toys. Battening down the hatches for the winds of winter. That brief snow event we had reminded me of the direction we are going. Thanksgiving is here, the holidays loom, we must prepare. I moved some things around so I had room to get some things out and put other things away. And then we start to prepare for the holidays, maybe some decorations, get the dishes out, make sure the pantry is stocked, somebody is coming and we all want to be sure to be ready. Hospitality is a thing and something we should pay attention to.

The real preparations though, that we should pay the most attention to as we hurry and bustle through our day, is at first not as visible. We need to prepare our hearts. All that outside stuff, the food, the decorations don't have any lasting purpose. I rather like **HOPE**, to have hope is a wonderful thing. Sometimes, well often really, as we look around, we see and experience things that don't seem right, they make us concerned and worried. Over 350 times in our Bible the words "fear not" ring out. God has a plan to prosper us, not to harm us, do we trust that? Do we have hope in God?

We can take **FAITH** for granted, I go to church or I consider myself a Christian, is that faith? Or can that be like putting up the decorations, looks good, but.... I had a relative that kept a bowl of plastic apples on a table, looked good, never spoiled, just dust them once in a while. When I visited as a kid I would gaze at them and wonder.... why. You see my grandparents had an orchard and any fruit you saw in that house was the real deal and anybody was welcome to eat it. I could never wrap my head fully around the fake fruit. Our preparations for the coming season need to be real as well, not something that looks good but holds no nourishment for others. We need to walk with God daily, to grow in our faith, read the Bible, pray, and wrestle with the words and their meanings.

Which leads me to **LOVE**. God loves us and it's a well so deep it doesn't have a bottom. And just like my grandparents who shared their fruit with those who asked, God shares his love with us. Our task then becomes passing that love to others, not because we have to but because our hope and our faith coupled with an unbounded amount of love that flows to us, flows out to others. Feed the hungry, cloth the naked, care for the widow

and orphan, tend to the sick, declare Gods love for the world and all peoples.

Those are the decorations that God wants to see as we prepare for this season. To us a child is born. Amen

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## Heading in a New Direction

Recently the idea of “turning a corner” or “stepping out of a fog into the light” has been running through my thoughts in relation to our church. Both are positive ideas but not exactly a true picture of St. Luke’s Church. We have been on a journey but things have not been so bleak that we would say we’re in a dark place. We were adrift more than lost, but because we hung together with our faith that Jesus would protect us and the Holy Spirit would guide us. We are starting to see a more shining future for our church.

This year we accepted SAM Paul Brooks and Pastor Ken Pollitz as our worship leaders. They have stepped in to lead our worship and help to guide us. We have a member who is now enrolled in Diakonia classes. We have completed several projects as a congregation that have reached out into the community. One was the collection of items for the Thanksgiving Bags; another was collecting socks and underwear for the children at Powell School; and another was the purchase of the can openers for the Food Pantry to give out as needed. We also maintained our monthly items for the food pantry. We collected hot chocolate and Pop Tarts for the Community Christmas baskets and presents for the Briar Hill Residents. We have also welcomed the Wood County Committee on Aging to use our facility to feed seniors in work has touched so many people in the neighborhood.



The positive direction is also reflected in our giving. At this time Clay McCartney and Carl Leiser assure the congregation that our giving in relation to the budget is in the black! I can remember years when we had to do a Christmas plea for additional funds at the end of the year to put us back in the black! We had a very successful Fund-Raising dinner recently that brought in more than \$8000 additional dollars for our parking lot project. Taking care of the assets of our church is really an important part of making sure we remain a viable congregation in this community.

The church council has met each month and seriously considered items on our agenda. We are starting to collect ideas to update the Constitution which has not been done since the 1980’s. We had a successful Vacation Bible School this past summer and our worship committee has worked hard to make the service flow in a meaningful way. We have appreciated the work that Dana Bourne does on a weekly basis. She is the one who prepares the bulletins, newsletters, greeting cards and other work done for the congregations.

Like I said, we are at a good place and in this time of reflection on our blessings, I am thankful for my relationship with St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. I feel like I have many brothers and sisters here. We are a family! We are on a journey together and it seems like we are sailing on smooth water in the bright sunshine. We know where we are going and it is toward Jesus!

Blessings, Pam Van Mooy

## NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

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

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

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!



piece and placing it in the nativity barn. Some years the sheep got the best spot by the manger and other years it was the donkey and cow. That is sort of like advent for me. I am hoping to get a good spot near the manger to see Jesus on Christmas! I know what is coming but it still excites me because I get to witness His birth again! What joy and anticipation this advent season brings! I pray that you enjoy the anticipation and excitement of this advent season. And may you get a good spot near the manger!

Advent Blessings, Pam

## Advent = Anticipation

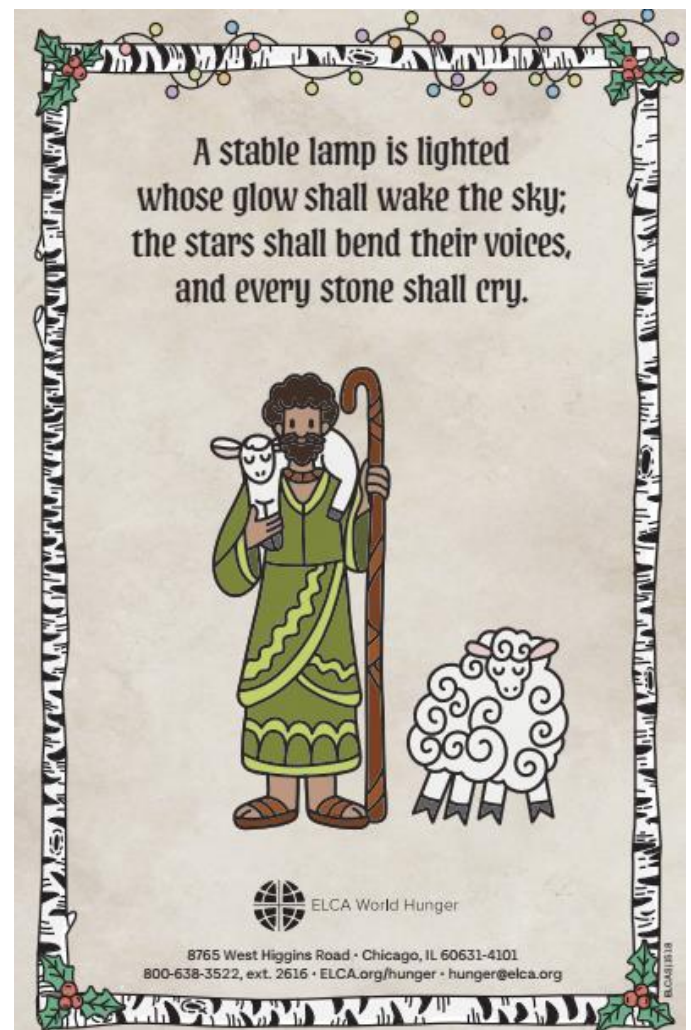
It is that time of the year when we start to get ready for Christmas. There is decorating to do, lists to make, shopping to get done and then the wrapping! It is a busy time. It is a time when the anticipation and excitement builds, especially for children. It is also a time of anticipation and excitement in the church. It is a time when we wait and prepare for the birth of Jesus!



The first day of Advent this year is November 30<sup>th</sup> and the advent season ends on Christmas day. Between those times there are things to do to prepare for Jesus' birth. There

will be the decorating of the church, preparing of special music, putting together special services and then the big day, Christmas! As the time gets closer, the anticipation and excitement builds.

At my house it is a busy time getting all the decorations out and put up. One traditional item that I remember from my childhood was the putting up of the nativity scene. My sister and I were put in charge of unwrapping each



Advent begins Sunday, November 30. Advent calendars will be available on the tables in Luther Hall. They are interactive with coloring, cutting out figures, and gluing. Join your church family for some fun and fellowship following worship.





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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. Your gifts to the special fund help cover the cost of the toner used for all printing and copying done in the office, as well as the liquid wax for the altar candles and the wax candles for the Eternal light. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2026 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.



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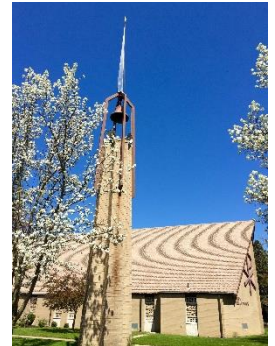
### *Get it in Writing*

Written reports to be included in the annual reports for 2025 are due in the church office no later than **January 15, 2026.** Electronic form is preferred, but not as important as getting the report in. Thank you.

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## *Home for Christmas*

I enjoy listening to Christmas songs whenever I drive anywhere during this season. One of my favorites is "I'll Be Home for Christmas". I can close my eyes and see one of my favorite Christmas commercials of the son who comes in the door in his service uniform to the arms of his mother. Everyone feels something special about going home for Christmas. I know that Christmas is a month away but I want to encourage everyone to make an effort to come **home** to your church for Christmas. We are a family and we always enjoy seeing those who have not been with us all the time. Whether you have moved, are in college, or just fell out of the habit of attending church at St. Luke's in person, please try to attend our Christmas eve service. It is a special time to be close to your church family. With music and candles and special readings it brings us closer together for that special event- the birth of the Christ child. We should also make an effort to get those who don't drive at night to that service. Come Home to St. Luke's this Christmas!

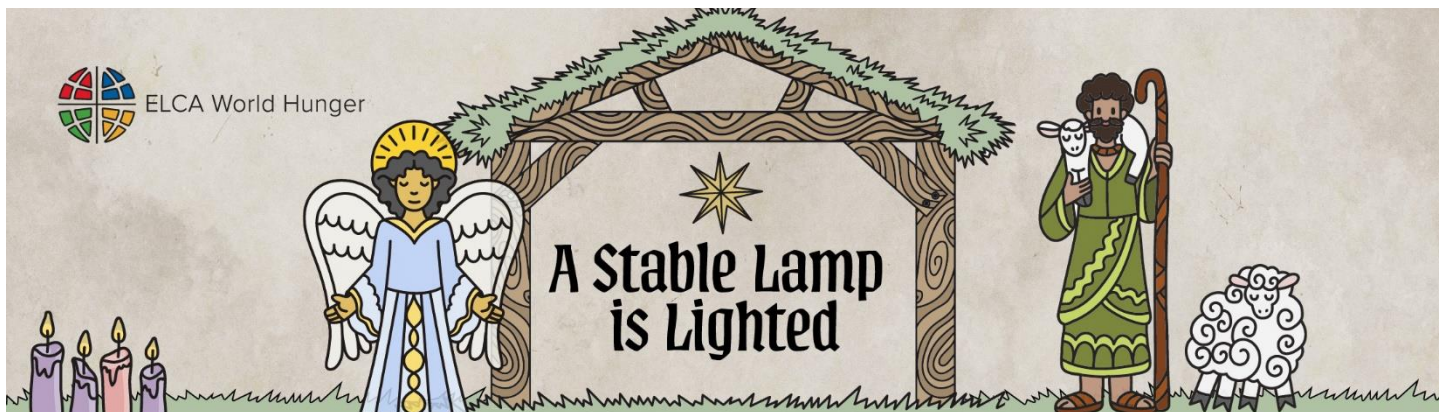


See you, Pam

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## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Your Church Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 4, during worship. They are Pam Van Mooy, Matt Matthes, Suzanne Bucher, Carl Lieser, Clay McCartney, Bryant Matthes, and Tiffany Mika. Please take a moment to thank them for their service and pray for God's guidance for these members as they lead our congregation into the future.



All of us at ELCA World Hunger bring you warm Advent greetings!

This season's Advent calendar and study guide from ELCA World Hunger invite you to prepare room in your home and hearth for yourself and your loved ones before going into the world to act on behalf of your neighbors. In a time of global suffering and anxiety, Richard Wilbur's hymn "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted" calls us to embrace the tension of the moment, the natural desire for a place of our own, and our call to care for the stranger:

***A STABLE LAMP IS LIGHTED  
WHOSE GLOW SHALL WAKE THE SKY;  
THE STARS SHALL BEND THEIR VOICES,  
AND EVERY STONE SHALL CRY.***

The simple act of making a hospitable, warm, cozy place — even in a stable — moves the sky, the stars and the stones to tremble. ELCA World Hunger's seasonal packet has resources for creating a place of care, rest and reflection for you and your family so that you feel prepared to strengthen your community.

### Calendar

The Advent calendar evokes feelings of a welcoming hearth during the harsher months of winter. The activities inside start with a standing nativity scene, ready to be colored throughout the season. Alongside each day's craft activity, the calendar includes:

- Opportunities from ELCA Good Gifts to generously support the church's national and global work to end poverty.
- Everything you need to create "Stocking the Streets" bags for your unhoused neighbors. If you are interested in more information about these bags, please contact the church office or check the Information Table in the Narthex.
- Scripture, prayers and hymns for seasonal reflection.

Calendars will be available in Luther Hall on November 30, following worship, and on the Information Table after Sunday.



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



**WE GIVE THANKS FOR:** the Hope of Advent; the generous giving of our church family and friends; our Church Council members who work diligently throughout the year helping us to do God's Work in this church; all veterans who have served in the military past, present and future, and for their families; and all of the saints who have set the path before us. 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:** Nina, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, 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](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 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

### SUNDAY, December 28 First Sunday of Christmas

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

### SUNDAY, January 4, 2026 Second Sunday of Christmas

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

### SUNDAY, January 11 Baptism of our Lord

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

### SUNDAY, January 18

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

### SUNDAY, January 25

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

### Altar Guild

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

### ❖ Worship Gifts ❖

### Altar Flowers

December 7 - [available for signup](#)  
December 14 - [available for signup](#)  
December 21 - Peg & Bill Roberts,  
plus poinsettias  
December 28 - [available for signup](#)  
January 7 - Tiffany Mika  
January 14 - [available for signup](#)

### Altar Candles

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

### Sunday Bulletins

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

### Newsletter

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





# December 2025



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Staff Meeting 10:00	3	4	5	6
<i>Advent 2</i> 7 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 <b>Worship 10:15</b>	8	9 Staff Meeting 10:00	10	11	12	13
<i>Advent 3</i> 14 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 <b>Worship 10:15</b> Church Council 11:30	15	16 Staff Meeting 10:00	17	18	19 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	20
<i>Advent 4</i> 21 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 <b>Worship 10:15</b>	22 <b>JANUARY Newsletter Deadline</b>	23 Staff Meeting 10:00	24  Worship 9:30 pm	25  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26	27
<i>Christmas 1</i> 28 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 <b>Worship 10:15</b>	29	30	31 <b>The Senior Center will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and will reopen on the day after Christmas.  The church office and the Senior Center will be closed on New Year's Day – January 1, 2026.</b>			



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**