

The
GOOD NEWS
Letter

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

April 2025



News flash ... I like trees

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

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.**

Spring..... Here we are full of anticipation and expectation. Spring, my mind works some different than many, so when I think of spring I see a coiled steel device. I see a flat piece in a vee that is wide at one end and very narrow at the other that can be pressed down. Both of these when compressed, sit waiting, in anticipation, in stillness, ready to burst forth with their stored energy. The release of all that energy causes an action, a motion. And you wonder where in the world is he going with this?

I love trees, in very early spring, in the stored energy the sun shines day and it dips night, their



sap flows and can be collected. Maple syrup holds a special place in my heart. The tree just stands there, waiting patiently for its maker to signal another cycle, it is still. The bounty of the land and all it holds always amazes me, it's just there. Kinda like Gods love, it's just there.

As we find ourselves in another season of spring, another season of Lent, another season of stored energy waiting to burst forth on to the landscape, what will be the result of our released energy? What work will it do? Will it be Gods will or ours? Will it be for lasting results or of a more temporal nature. Can we be still and listen for Gods breath to signal us to burst forth with our stored energy and spread Gods love to everyone and everything we come in contact with? Wanna talk more about this or any other concerns you may have, give me a call and we can arrange a time to tap into your sap and bring forth the sweet syrup that lies within us all.

SAM Paul Brooks



NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty



APRIL requested donations include: laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper

MAY requested donations include: peanut butter, jellies,

jams

Served the first quarter of 2025:

Jan: 17 families/40 people

Feb: 14 families/30 people

Mar: 13 families/30 people

Holy Week and Easter



In the Lutheran Church Holy Week is the most important celebration in our church year. It is a time of reflection. It is a

sad reminder of cruelty of man and yet it turns into a joyous day when our sins were wiped away and we were reborn in Christ's resurrection! Palm Sunday, April 13, begins our Holy Week. We will have our regular church service at 10:15 a.m. We will remember Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem to Hosannas and waving palm branches. On Thursday evening, April 17, at 7 p.m. we will celebrate Maundy Thursday with Holy communion and the stripping of the altar. We will also reflect on Good Friday as part of this service. On Easter morning, April 20, we will join together for an Easter breakfast and fellowship at 9 a.m. Our Celebration of the Resurrection will begin at 10:15 a.m. Although our services are broadcast, we urge everyone to come and celebrate with us together.



Spring Cleaning

As part of our Easter tradition the church and especially the altar area of the sanctuary are cleaned and polished and returned to their places after the stripping of the altar during the Maundy Thursday



service. The Altar Guild is inviting everyone to come to the church on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. to help with this task. There are simple tasks like putting out the new vestments, cleaning the communion ware, dusting the baseboards and window sills, and wiping down the pews. Karen Kraus anticipates with entire job will take less than 2 hours. Many hands make light work and the process is a fun time of fellowship.

Talents to Share

The old Bible story talked about having talents (a coin in Bible times) and whether



you hid them or used them to help others. Of course, we learned in Sunday School that we were supposed to share our talents, those gifts that each of us have been given! Recently we shared a volunteer form that asked each of us to check off what tasks /committees we were willing to do for our church. We realize that everyone is busy and some people may be afraid to get up in front of everyone to speak or sing but there are all kinds of tasks, many behind the scenes, that need filling. Maybe you could take the recycling to the community bins twice a month, or staple bulletins, or sing in the choir, or fix a dish for a funeral dinner. Everyone has a talent that can be shared. If you have not completed the form pick one up on the table outside of the sanctuary. Once it is completed put it in the collection plate, place it on the table, or put it in Dana's mailbox.

SAM (Synod Approved Minister)

We have had the blessing of a couple of SAMs (Synod Approved Ministers) during our search for a pastor. These lay people have taken training and classes and have been given the right to do baptisms, funerals, communion, and weddings, even though they are not ordained ministers. Paul Brooks recently was recognized as a SAM and is coming to St. Luke's and St. John's under a yearlong contract that was approved by both Church Councils. His contract was approved during the March Council meeting. Not only will he be preaching 3 of 4 Sundays each month, he will also be ministering to the sick, having office hours to meet with members, and creating Bible Studies and other church activities. On the 3rd Sunday of each month when Paul is away, Ken Pollitz, an interim part-time minister at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in BG, will fill in. We are pleased to officially welcome Paul as our SAM at a special service which is being scheduled. Having a SAM does not mean that we are not still looking for a Pastor. The Call Committee is still waiting for the right candidate but we are pleased that Paul Brooks has been sent to us.

Prayer List Updates



We need to keep our prayer list up to date. If you have recovered or don't feel you need to still be on the list, put a note in Dana's mailbox or give her a call. Paul Brooks will also be contacting those on the prayer list in the weeks to come. Remember, we always pray for our church family in good times as well as bad!

WCCOA

The Wood County Committee on Aging is now open for Senior meals and activities here at St. Luke's. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM – 2 PM with lunch being served at noon. You must call to place a reservation because the food is prepared in BG and brought here. Folks over 60 are welcomed free or for a small donation. Please note that St. Luke's should not use their refrigerator, freezer, paper products or coffee pot. They will not be using ours, which are labeled. Any member that wants to use the Church Hall for a meeting, family get together or party must contact Dana in the church office or Pam Van Mooy at 419-257-2788 so that we can make sure it is on the calendar and that WCCOA is notified of any conflicts.

You are who you are for a reason
You're part of an intricate plan
You're a precious and perfect unique design called
God's special women or man

You look like you look for a reason
Our God made no mistake
He knit you together within the womb
You're just what he wanted to make

The parents you have were the ones he chose
And no matter how you may feel
They were custom-designed with God's plan in mind
And they bear the Master's seal
No, that trauma you faced was not easy
And God wept; that it hurt you so
But it was allowed to shape your heart
So that into his likeness you'd grow

You are who you are for a reason
You've been formed by the Master's rod
You are who you are, beloved
Because there is a God!

JoLynn Stewart

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 11:30am.

Attendance

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

Absent – None

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

- February 2025 minutes accepted.
- Motion by Matt to approve February's minutes, 2nd by Carl. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his February report showing \$8,069.60 in the black.
- Motion by Suzanne to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Matt. All approved.

President/Vice-President's Report

- Pam had a meeting with Clay & Paul (see unfinished business).
- Pam had a meeting with WCCOA (see unfinished business).

Discipleship Committee Report

- JoLynn has the Lenten Wednesdays' soup & sandwich meals scheduled and organized.

Property Committee Report

- Bryant spoke with Clay about the smoke detectors and about the way they have decided to hang them. This will soon be completed.
- Bryant has gotten the dumpster bumpers and they will soon be installed.
- The remainder of the partitions in the fellowship hall will soon be taken down.

Pastor's Report

- Paul advised Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are scheduled and will be a blended service on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at St. Luke's.

Other Committees/Announcements

- The cleaning of the church will take place the day before Easter specifically on Saturday, April 19th, at 9:30am, by the altar guild, but is extended to anyone that would like to join.

Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team

- Nothing to Report

Unfinished Business

- There was a meeting with Pam, Clay & Paul concerning the SAM contract for Paul Brooks which lists the salary, schedule & duties of our new SAM (Paul Brooks). This contract will be effective March 1, 2025, thru February 28, 2026. Motion by Matt to approve the contract, 2nd by JoLynn. All approved.
- Pam had a meeting with the WCCOA. The Senior Center sign was discussed and they will design a draft of the new sign with St Luke's Lutheran Church listed on the sign. They will soon show us the draft so that it can hopefully be approved.
- Bryant advised the large pot hole on the West side of our parking lot should be taken care of soon, weather permitting.

New Business

- Easter plans are all taken care of by the appropriate people.
- Bryant will be getting estimates for the reconstruction of our church parking lot.

Statistical Report

- Nothing to Report

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:00pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, April 13, 2025 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher



“The Gift of Spring” Gathering

Saturday, May 3, 2025 9-11:30 am
Good Hope Lutheran Church,
200 S. Main St., Arlington, Ohio

Devotions – Communion – Brunch \$7 – Guest Speaker –
Closing Hymn – Dismissal

Registration begins at 9am
Please call Good Hope to register
419-365-5582
Deadline is Monday, April 28, 2025



Monetary offering = ½ Synodical Treasure, ¼ Conference Treasurer, ¼ Good Hope Food Pantry

In-kind offering for Good Hope Food Pantry: cereal, mac & cheese, shampoo, toothpaste, spaghetti, and canned fruits and veggies.

Fall Gathering – September 6 – St. Luke's in North Baltimore

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for family and friends with whom to share the journey of Lent; for God's grace in the healing of Kelli Sterling and Deanna Griffith; for ashes and dust, bread and wine, grace and love; for the changes in our lives that help us to learn and grow. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wymer, John Stewart, Becky Bean, 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, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Jo Mineo, Frances Bullock, Eli Swartz, Riley Guy, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, 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.

National Day of Prayer – May 1, 2025

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

❖ Worship Ministries ❖

SUNDAY, April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

SUNDAY, April 13 Palm Sunday

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17

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

SUNDAY, April 20 Easter Sunday

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Tracey Pritts*
Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, April 27

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*
Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, May 4

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Tiffany Mika*
Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, May 11

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*
Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

SUNDAY, May 18

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

SUNDAY, May 25

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

Altar Guild

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

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

April 6 - *Karen & Lynn Krauss*
April 13 - [*available for signup*](#)
April 20 - *Easter*
April 27 - [*available for signup*](#)
May 4 - [*available for signup*](#)
May 11 - [*available for signup*](#)

Altar Candles

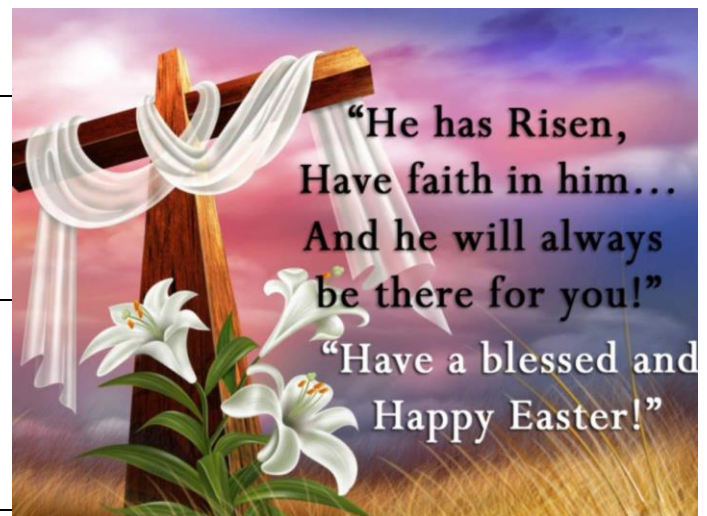
April - [*available for signup*](#)
May - [*available for signup*](#)

Sunday Bulletins

April - [*available for signup*](#)
May - *Laura & Tony Damon*

Newsletter

April - *Lois & Rut Heilman*
May - *Laura & Tony Damon*





April 2025



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>TRUST in the GRACE of God in the midst of CHAOS</p>		<p>1 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>2 The Chosen Meal-6:00 Study -7:00</p>			
<p>Lent 5 6 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15</p>		<p>8 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>9 The Chosen Meal-6:00 Study -7:00</p>			
<p>Palm Sunday 13 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30</p>		<p>15 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>		<p>17 Maundy Thursday Worship REMEMBER ME 7:00 pm Worship 7 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Good Friday No service</p>	<p>19 Altar Guild Spring Cleaning and Set-up 9:30</p>
<p>Easter Sunday 20 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Worship 10:15</p>		<p>22 Staff Meeting 10:00 </p>	<p>23  Newsletter Deadline</p>			
<p>Easter 2 27 Worship 10:15</p>						<p>Smile, God Loves You! </p>