

The **GOOD NEWS** letter



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

July 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 Pollitz
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.**

Wow! has it been hot!

It could be said that I have a special relationship with air conditioners. I also have a special relationship with my twin 8 yr old grandsons. They love to come and adventure with grandpa, be it in the woods, the creek, just outback eating whatever berry is ripe, or in the pool. They are boys and even if that pool were as big as a football field, I believe they would find each other and do minor violence on each other. Boys.... what ya



gonna do? So, one takes a swing at the other and I'm like "stop! what are you doing?" "He splashed in my eyes! Did you splash in his eyes? Well, he was in my way. You couldn't see he was there? He grabbed my arm a while ago. Ok, everybody out of the pool, we need to talk." Drip, drip, drip.

So, how wonderful would it be if our lives could be like that, everybody out of the pool, we need to talk. Are our lives really that much different from having two 8 yr old boys in the pool? I bet there were 8 yr old boys 6000 years ago that were not much different. When they saw another person steal something from their family, they probably saw their family go get the guilty party and beat him to within an inch of his life, if they didn't just kill him. Very, very primitive justice, well not really justice. This world was run by 8 yr old boys. Sometimes I wonder how far we have come. And then they get some nudges from God. "Hey everybody out of the pool! I'm going to give you folks some rules so we can actually move toward a little justice." Leviticus chapter 24, eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, if someone steals or breaks something the offender must make it right.

We can hardly imagine the difference these "laws" made. It wasn't just wholesale violence anymore, there was some fairness, a little justice. Their perception of God was changing. So now all the 8 yr old boys had some rules and an authority figure. There are many people that still refer to the eye for an eye in defending what and how they do their lives. It's in the Bible, right? Down through time people have been trying to figure God out and they get stuck, stuck in the Old Testament, stuck in something

they learned in Sunday School, stuck in something that felt right. Jesus tells us of a new way, a way beyond the eye for an eye, a way to freedom from our having to make those judgements. Love your neighbor as yourself. Forgive others seventy times seven, turn the other cheek, pick up your cross and follow me. Get out of the pool of violence.

We are all like 8 yr old boys, we need to get out of the pool sometimes and go have a talk, or pray with Jesus and get reset. My grandsons, after a talk, asked if we could make smores. My reply was that the fire is already going and the supplies are just inside the house. They were very good. There's nourishment is Gods house as well, come on over and let's talk.

SAM Paul Brooks

The Act of Giving

Giving is an act of Grace. All that we believe about Christian giving must begin with the truth that giving is an act of grace. We received the grace from God so now we should be motivated by that grace to give to others.

We received grace. We give Grace. Freely we receive. Freely we give. It is at the bottom of what we do when we give. God made the first move. He gave so much to us...his Son. It makes sense that because he gave so much, we should give also.

Giving is not necessarily related to income. Yes, having extra money is always helpful but even little amounts put together can do great things. We are asked to give what we can. That giving is between you and God. We would ask that you consider how many blessings you have been given and give to God accordingly.

Our church is doing pretty well financially. We thank everyone for continuing to support the work of this church in North Baltimore. The Council has tried to be good stewards of the money given for upkeep and maintenance. This will continue, but we hope that you also continue to support the church financially.

Other than your offerings there are other ways to support this church and its mission. You can give a little time to St. Luke's Church. Maybe you could help during the week of Vacation Bible School. We still need volunteers. Maybe you could help on the Altar Guild or another committee of this church. Perhaps you could serve as an usher on Sunday mornings or help with the weeding around the church building and sidewalks. You could pay for the printing of the bulletins for one month. You can help by purchasing items for our service project. Little ways of giving that help others so much. Consider the grace that has been given to you and open your giving heart.

Blessings in Christ, Pam Van Mooy



Let the bells ring out!

In celebration of our 128th Anniversary, SAM Paul Brooks will ring the church bell 128 time beginning at noon on **Friday, July 25**. You are invited to come join him.



Service Project

St. Luke's will once again participate in a service project on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, which is September 7, 2025. Each year the ELCA encourages its member congregations to reach out to their neighbors through a service project that is completed on a specific day. Because we believe that grace flows through us from Jesus Christ, this project is our way of sharing Jesus with our neighbors.

The Good News†Amen team will be spearheading our efforts for three projects this fall but the first will be completed on this special Sunday in September, after church. The project was discussed and approved by Church Council. We will be preparing **"Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag"**, similar to our Birthday bags last year, for the local Food Pantry. Our goal is to prepare at least 25 bags. Each bag contains 2 small cans of turkey or chicken, 1 box of stuffing, 1 envelope of instant mashed potatoes, 1 packet of gravy mix, and 1 can of kernel corn (or seasoned green beans). A recipe for the dinner is also included but only water is needed to complete the dinner. Each bag feeds two people. A sample bag is on the rolling cart in Luther Hall. All donations can be placed on this cart. The sample bag only cost \$8 at Dollar Tree but you can also get items at Meijer, Kroger and Walmart. **We will be collecting mashed potatoes and the can of corn during July.** The rest of the items will be collected in August. If everyone donates a little bit, we can help so many others. It truly is "God's Work, Our Hands." Won't you help?

Join us on September 7 following worship for a meal and an opportunity to complete this

service project together. Watch the August Newsletter for details on the other fall service projects.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

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

AUGUST requested donations include mac & cheese, instant potatoes.



Served the second quarter of 2025:

Apr: 15 families/32 people

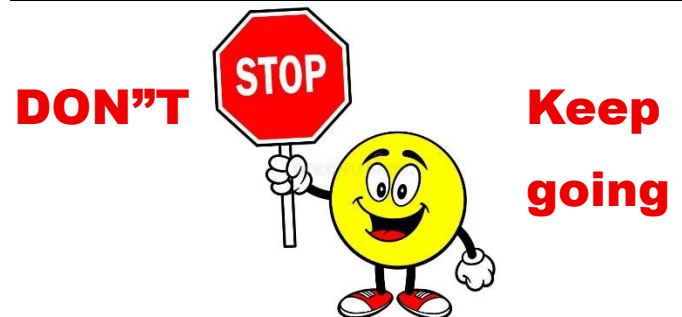
May: 15 families/32 people

Jun: 13 families/29 people

Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry in our community. Please give generously for God loves a cheerful giver.

Are you Having a Party!

Do you need to borrow some tables and/or chairs? See page 6 of this newsletter, second item under "New Business," for information for borrowing tables and chairs from the church.



for information about Vacation Bible School, St. John's Adult Vacation Bible School, Church Council minutes, prayer list, worship ministry, and calendar of events for July.



**St. Luke's Church
Vacation Bible School
July 20-24, 2025
5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Dinner will be served each night.

Registration for 5-year-olds through those just completing 6th Grade has begun online @ www.myvbs.org/stlukeslutherannb, or call the church and leave a message.

Early bird deadline for registration is July 12 for a chance to win a prize.

Parents, grandparents, and guests are invited on Thursday @ 7:45 for our VBS closing program.



New friends + Amazing experiments + Creative games + Surprising adventures + Incredible music

ONE STUDENT PER FORM, PLEASE

Vacation Bible School July 20-24, 2025, Registration Form

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 215 N Second St., North Baltimore, Ohio 45872

419-257-3253

Student Name: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female
Date of Birth: _____ Grade COMPLETED: _____ Age: _____
Parent Name(s): _____
Street Address: _____ P.O. Box: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Name of your Church: _____
Special Needs/Allergies: _____
Person Responsible for Pickup after VBS: _____
Their Phone Number: _____ Relationship to child: _____

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 11:45am.

Attendance

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

Absent – Suzanne Bucher

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

- Motion by JoLynn to approve the May 2025 minutes, 2nd by Clay. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his May report.
- Motion by Matt to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Bryant. All approved.

President's Report

- Pam waived her report as most things were covered in old and new business.

Vice-President's Report

- Nothing to Report

Discipleship Committee Report

- Good News†Amen team will work on a project God's Work, Our Hands for a Sunday in September.

Property Committee Report

- Nothing to Report

Pastor's Report

- Paul reported there will be some changes to the order of worship since we are entering the new church year. We are going to be using a different lectionary series. We also discussed the baptism that took place in his absence.

Other Committees/Announcements

- Nothing to Report

Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team

- Nothing to Report

Unfinished Business

- St. Luke's Constitution Review & Update
 - Paul asked a question about Active & Inactive members and how they were determined in the past. This is something that the constitution review committee will address.
 - We are to look over the constitution and get our thoughts to Paul.
- Wood County Committee on Aging sign.
 - Pam met with the Village Administrator about the WCCA sign. She is waiting to hear if our sign placement in the yard is approved. She will touch base with him this upcoming week.
- Sean Mills did the spring clean-up around the building and submitted a bill. Everyone agreed it looks good.
- We have done some clean up around the inside of the building starting with the choir room downstairs and the flower room, and a Sunday school room upstairs. We are working with Beth to organize and discard Bible school items/decorations that cannot be used anymore.
- Bryant will be getting estimates for the reconstruction of our church parking lot.
- Parking Lot Project Phase I
 - Bryant spoke with someone from town who does concrete work about repairs/reconstruction of our West parking lot entrance/exit. He received an estimate of \$5,000 that will include the concrete approach and sidewalk. Bryant will also be getting some cold pack to fill the hole.
 - Motion by Clay to give Bryant permission to seek permits and enter into a contract to have this work done. 2nd by Matt. All approved.
 - Motion by Matt to accept the \$5,000 bid for the work. 2nd by JoLynn. All approved.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

New Business

- There was an initial VBS meeting recently with 8 people present. Beth presented the theme and how it will be organized. She has a sign-up board posted for people to sign up and also register kids. We are going to need a lot of help. Simple suppers were discussed.
- A discussion about borrowing church folding tables & chairs came up recently. Pam was not aware that the policy had changed so the request was denied. The request to borrow folding tables & chairs by MEMBERS is permitted. The items borrowed must be written in the notebook under the mailboxes and items are to be returned asap after the event.

Pam will call and apologize to the person that asked to borrow them, and the policy will be put in our newsletter.

- The AED training will be held after church on June 15 by Derrick Wears.
- Rally Day will be September 7 with a dinner after church.
- Two (2) God's Work, our Hands projects were discussed and verbally approved. We will collect items for "dinner in a bag", and collect children's underwear and socks for Powell Elementary School. We will start the campaign soon, chaired by the Good News†Amen committee.
- Motion by Matt for council NOT to meet in July. 2nd by Bryant. All approved. If items of business come up, we will take care of it by text or email.
- Council was informed that Jack Sterling will be attending a retreat for church leaders soon at Sauder Village.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for April.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 12:40pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, August 10, 2025 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Van Mooy

St. John's Lutheran Church of McComb

**An Invitation from McComb's St. John's Lutheran Church, 203 W. South St.,
we will host our 11th annual Adult Vacation Bible School,
July 6th – 10th from 6 pm to 8 pm.**

Activities include: singing favorite hymns, fellowship and snacks,
Bible Study on Steps of Faith and Trust with group involvement,
and community enrichment showing how faith and trust were necessary to
develop their new programs. All are invited to come to gain personal insight
into life and have fun.

No registration is required.

Our Community Enrichment Program will include speakers from:

Sunday – Blessing Basket
Monday – Bench Warmers
Tuesday – Little Panther Learning Center
Wednesday – Hope House
Thursday – Transformation Thrift Store/ City Mission

**OUR FAITH,
TRUST, AND
LOVE ARE
PROVED AND REVEALED
IN ADVERSITIES.**

JOHN OF KRONSTADT

ChristianChurches.info

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: all of God's goodness and blessings "from sea to shining sea;" the presence of our church building and ministry in the North Baltimore community, for fathers, for the gift of the Holy Spirit as God continues to guide our lives, for our partnership with the members of St. John's Church in McComb. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Amy, Nickie, Jo, Eli, Riley, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, 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.



A Prayer for Independence Day

Guide us as we work together to build a society in which everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and hope. Help us to be witnesses of Christ's love by practicing charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world. Strengthen us with fortitude to choose the values of our faith as we exercise Our responsibility as citizens. Inspire us to build a world of greater respect for human life and dignity. Restore us when our spirit grows weary, and bless us in our journey home to You.

❖ Worship Ministries ❖

SUNDAY, July 6 St. John's Adult VBS Begins

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

SUNDAY, July 13

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

SUNDAY, July 20 Vacation Bible School begins

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

SUNDAY, July 27 128th Anniversary Sunday

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

SUNDAY, August 3

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

SUNDAY, August 10

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

SUNDAY, August 17

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

SUNDAY, August 24

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

SUNDAY, August 31

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

Altar Guild

July - Tiffany Mika, Beth Williams
August - Arica Matthes, Sue Simon

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

July 6 - [available for signup](#)
July 13 - [available for signup](#)
July 20 - [available for signup](#)
July 27 - Peg & Bill Roberts
August 3 - Karen & Lynn Krauss
August 10 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

July - Carol Williams
August - [available for signup](#)

Sunday Bulletins

July - Carol Williams
August - [available for signup](#)

Newsletter

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



Who Are You Listening To?

Central Conference Lutheran Women's
Fall Gathering Invitation

Saturday, September 6, 2025
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
North Baltimore

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin will be sharing the
ART of LISTENING.

9:00am check in and snacks
1:00pm closing
Cost is \$7.00 for lunch

RSVP by September 2, to St. Luke's Church @ 419-257-3253 and
please leave a message.

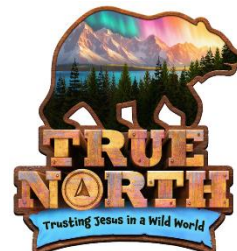
In-kind offerings of non-perishable food items, toiletries, cleaning
supplies, and laundry supplies will be received.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. You'll be glad you did.






July 2025



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 20 days to VBS Staff Meeting 10:00	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July Office Closed	5
Pentecost 4 6 Worship 10:15	7	8 Staff Meeting 10:00	9	10	11 10 days to VBS	12 VBS decorating 9:00
St. John's McComb Adult Vacation Bible School 6-8 pm						
Pentecost 5 13 Worship 10:15	14	15 Staff Meeting 10:00	16	17	18	19
Pentecost 6 20 Worship 10:15	21 Office Hours Noon-4	22 Office Hours Noon-4	23 Office Hours Noon-4	24 Office Hours Noon-4	25 128th Anniversary Bell Ringing noon	26
"True North" Vacation Bible School 5:30-8 pm						
Pentecost 7 27 Anniversary Sunday Worship 10:15	28  AUGUST Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31		