

The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

August 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 Pollitt
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.

Fruit or Weed Whose Garden Do You Live In?

We held an Adult Vacation Bible School at St John's Church a couple weeks ago. I was hopeful and somewhat confident that it would go well and it did. We had wonderful community program speakers, and I think the lessons were well received and will produce fruit. But we don't know right now. Just like when I planted seeds in my garden this spring or observed blooms on my fruit trees, we just aren't sure what the results might be. My beans came up and they are now in bloom. My corn, an heirloom variety that Thomas Jefferson once grew, is doing ok but it went in later than I would have liked. The birds got all my cherries just as they started to blush. A frost got some of my blueberry blossoms but I will get a few. I'm going to have lots of blackberries again, they are just starting. I'm getting squash and cherry tomatoes now. I do have some wild grape vines that I do battle with, they don't produce anything but bother and seed the birds eat and spread.

Jesus said in John "I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener, he cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit." "This is my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples". As Christians, we are not called to be what others may see as normal. The world may not even be too fond of you. Jesus' love and joy should abound in us so that our joy may be complete. That same love and joy, because it comes from our relationship with Jesus, is in such great abundance that we cannot contain it. As Christians, we are called to extend and share that same love with everyone, yes everyone.

Some, like my wild grape vines, are a little tougher to extend love to. All that love is seed, seed that you spread everywhere. The love we spread becomes blooms and brings glory to God as they fruit. I have even found a way to love my grape vine, I give it something to climb on, it provides shade and it's really not ugly, I just need to keep it at bay. So, do we even know we have all this love and grace that God gives us? If we know, who do we share it with? What are the rules? Who are we to exclude? What people may we consider a weed in our garden?



Even I can tell what a weed looks like. Maybe we need to consider whose garden we actually live in. I think we just read that God is the gardener, so what standing do we have to decide who may or may not be a weed? That is some above our pay grade. Our jobs are not to sort but to spread - spread God's love to all, and that's a good thing because without God's grace I, too, am just a weed. If you have some fruits or vegetables, take some to somebody that you don't talk to or even know. Go bear some fruit. Further care instructions for God's garden can be found in John 15. May God's love abound in you and may the Holy Spirit impress upon you to do good works in Jesus' name.

SAM Paul Brooks

A So It Continues...

Join us on Rally Day/God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 7, for a meal and to work together assembling the "Thanksgiving Dinner in a Bag" items. I am so pleased with all the donations that have been brought in. **During August we will be collecting 2 small cans of turkey or chicken, boxes of stuffing, and packets of turkey gravy.** All donations can be placed on the rolling cart which also has a sample bag. Please bring all your items by the last Sunday in August. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please use the pink envelope and mark it Meal in a Bag. We will purchase any items we need to make our goal. Additional money will be put into making more bags.

Our second project for underwear, Pull Up donate to Powell start to collect these can start to purchase



school sales. The sizes should vary. Many times, getting back in the school routine is hard for youngsters as they try to regulate to restroom breaks after the use the restroom anytime during the summer. Accidents happen and it is often difficult for working parents to come to school to drop off a change of clothes. Having these clean supplies available in the office helps to minimize time out of class. We collected these items a few years ago so it is time to restock. You can bring the items and place them in the laundry basket by the information table.

this fall is to collect children's Underwear, and socks to Elementary School. We will items in September but you those during the back-to-

Our third project will be closer to Christmas. We will have an assigned item for the Christmas baskets as we always do but we are also going to collect new hand held can openers. Many times, people getting food from food pantry are not able to receive canned foods because they do not have anything to open those cans with. We will be donating the openers to the Food Pantry. They said they give them out when someone tells them they can't take canned food because they don't have an opener. We will try to collect 20 of these openers. More details will be forthcoming.



A great big “Bear Hug”

THANK YOU

to Beth, Barb, Tracey, Janet, Paul, Tiffany, Tom, Dana, Carol, Jack, Lorraine, Sue, Jocelyn, Mike, Kelcie, Lauren, Stephanie, Mackenzie, MacKayla, Erica, Terrance, Karlie, Aubrey, and Crystal, who stepped up and showed up to help make our “True North” Vacation Bible School a journey we’ll remember. We had 34 children throughout the week. Thanks be to God.



LOOKING FORWARD and PLANNING

We really enjoy the changing of the seasons. We love seeing the leaves fluttering on the trees, and seeing our gardens (weeds included) flourishing. We enjoy the birds, blue skies with puffy clouds, fireworks and the warm weather. We look forward to reunions, family vacations, swimming and boating or just relaxing outside in a lawn chair. Think back to the cold weather with ice and snow, shoveling instead of mowing, staying inside and home. We may have caught a cold, saw trees with no leaves and had the early darkness of evening.

The changing of seasons gives us variety. It marks the passing of time. There is an old saying that says “Time marches on” but as I get older it has changed to “time flies by.” As we get older, we reflect on the time passed, what we did when we were younger, maybe what we can no longer do. Looking back is fine as long as we don’t spend all our time looking and wishing for the past. We need to look ahead, emphasizing what is yet to come. What dreams do you have for your future? Is it a special trip, a new baby in the family, a graduation or wedding? Don’t forget God and

your church in your future plans. Plan on attending church, plan on helping with the projects our church is working on, and plan on sending in your monetary gifts for the work of the church. The Church Council is working on future projects of this church. Janet has started to select the hymns for the next church season. We want this church to have a place in this community and that will only take place if we plan and work together toward those goals. It takes all of us to fulfill those goals. Just like the changing of seasons and time, our church needs to look ahead and change when necessary.

Yours in Christ, Pam Van Mooy

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

A new director for the Senior Center here at St. Luke’s as been hired and is in training. Keep watch for when they are ready to reopen.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

AUGUST requested donations include mac & cheese, instant potatoes.

SEPTEMBER requested donations include cereals and pork & beans.

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



V
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Last month, campers and adult leaders from across Ohio gathered at HopeWood Pines (formerly Lutheran Memorial Camp) for the All-Ohio Youth Camp. Together, we listened for God's voice, shared meals, played games, scampered up a climbing wall, and -of course- sang lots of silly camp songs.

One of the most inspiring moments occurred during our final evening together, when we gathered for a candlelight service in the outdoor chapel. As the light of Jesus filled the space, each camper and adult leader quietly placed their lit candles on the stone altar, beneath the cross of Jesus. It was a beautiful witness to the growing faith of our young people

Church camp plays an important role in the spiritual formation of our young people. In a world that moves so rapidly, camp offers a moment of Sabbath pause and sacred rest. Here is a place to slow down. Here is a place to be present with others. Here is a place to encounter the Living God in the beauty of creation and Christian community.

Hopewood Outdoors is a vital partner in ministry. It is more than a summer tradition; it is sacred ground. For generations, HopeWood Camps have been a place where seeds of faith are planted, where young leaders are nurtured, and where lives are touched by the love of Jesus.

To ensure that the mission of HopeWood Outdoors continues to flourish, I invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the \$2.5 million Growing Hope Campaign. Your generosity will help to strengthen and sustain the mission of HopeWood Outdoors for generations to come. When we give, we are not just supporting a camp, we are investing in the spiritual formation of our young people. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, partnership, and support.



HopeWood Pines outdoor candlelight service





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.



LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: all those who helped to make our VBS a huge success; opportunities to share the Good News with our neighbors; all who are working to make our VBS next week a fun and safe place for our children; the freedoms that we enjoy though the sacrifices of others including our Lord Jesus Christ. 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: Anita Roberts, Amy Stewart, Nickie Whitman, Jo Mineo, Eli Swartz, Riley Guy, 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, 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

SUNDAY, September 7 Rally Day

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

SUNDAY, September 14

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

SUNDAY, September 21

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

SUNDAY, September 28

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

Altar Guild

August - Arica Matthes, Sue Simon
September - Arica Matthes, Sue Simon

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

August 3 - Karen & Lynn Krauss
August 10 - [available for signup](#)
August 17 - [available for signup](#)
August 24 - [available for signup](#)
August 31 - [available for signup](#)
September 7 - [available for signup](#)
September 14 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

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

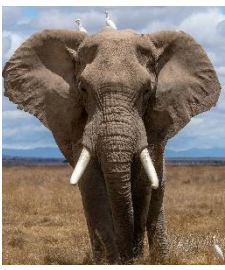
Sunday Bulletins

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

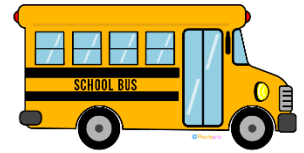
Newsletter

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







August 2025



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rally Day is coming, September 7. Join us for worship @ 10:15 followed by a meal and assembling the "Thanksgiving Dinner in a Bag" project.					1	2
<i>Pentecost 8</i> 3 Worship 10:15	4 <i>Church Carpet Cleaning 9:00</i>	5 Staff Meeting 10:00	6	7	8	9
<i>Pentecost 9</i> 10 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30	11 	12 Staff Meeting 10:00 World Elephant Day!	13	14	15 Church Office Closed	16
<i>Pentecost 10</i> 17 Worship 10:15	18	19 Staff Meeting 10:00	20 First Day of School for North Baltimore	21	22	23
<i>Pentecost 11</i> 24 Worship 10:15	25  Newsletter Deadline	26 Staff Meeting 10:00	27	28	29	30
<i>Pentecost 12</i> 31 Worship 10:15	Monday, September 1, is Labor Day and the church office will be closed. Have a save and happy Labor Day! Looking ahead – Dana will be on vacation from September 6-13.					