

The GOOD NEWS Letter



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

September 2025



Its September, Oh My!

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>



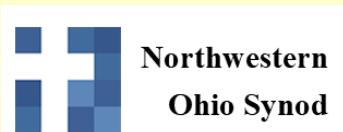
As Lutherans, we believe that we are part of God's unfolding plan. When we gather for worship, we connect with believers everywhere. When we study the Bible or hear God's word in worship, we are drawn more deeply into God's own saving story.

**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.**

Tomatoes, county fairs, back to school, cooler weather, approaching harvest, Rally Day Sunday, a change of seasons. Just as the kids all go back to school to learn, tax their brains, expand their knowledge, we too need to come to worship to dig into God's word. You will notice that the readings have changed. The Narrative that we will be using beginning September 7, focuses on learning, education, and knowledge, as well as the good news that Jesus offers. The Bible has rather a lot to say about learning and wisdom. Proverbs 2:6 - *For the lord gives wisdom: from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.* James 1:5 - *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* Proverbs 1:5 - *Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.* And then there's 2 Corinthians 12:9, Proverbs 18:2, Philippians 1:9 & 10, James 1:22 and Romans 12:2.

It seems learning, seeking, listening, and understanding is rather important. I'll remind you that we are doing a study of Ecclesiastes at St. Johns each Sunday in September and October at 9:15am and would love to see you there.

It can be hard sometimes to learn as we may have settled into what we think is the final word. Yet, as we read the Bible, we come to new understandings all the time. We are a work in progress; all things transform before our eyes; we need to be open to the blessings that flow from those transformations, even with our understanding. The only things that are settled are - you are good enough, you are forgiven, and you are loved by the infinite love of God.

It can be difficult to understand as everything has to be understood in opposition to something else. For some reason our egos prefer to make one side better than the other, so we choose. We decide males are better than females, America is better than Mexico, Democrats are better than Republicans. And for most people, once this decision is made, it is amazing the amount of blindness we become capable of. We really don't see what is right in front of us. Once you see, it's an amazing breakthrough, and that is the starting place for moving away from dualistic thinking. Come on, let's go explore and learn.

SAM Paul Brooks



Reaching Out to our Community

When the Call Committee was working on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) we had to take a hard look at our churches and what we do in all phases of our church life. One particular part asked us how we reach out to the Community and those who are not members of our church. After some careful thinking and discussion, we identified our participation in the monthly donations to the community Food Pantry, the help with the Christmas Baskets, Christmas presents to residents of Briar Hill and Vacation Bible School. All of these activities are our chance to share with our community. Last year as part of the God's Work, Our Hands program we collected, assembled and gave Birthday Bags to the Food Pantry. They were well received and much appreciated by members of the community. This year we opened our doors to the Wood County Committee on Aging Senior Center to provide a handicap accessible site for them to provide meals and socialization to our community senior citizens. Although there have been some hurdles it was beginning to provide some needed services to some in our community. All of these things are important and something we can be proud to say we are doing but is it enough? Is there more we should be doing for our neighbors in the community? We are Lutherans so we have a difficult time being evangelists, but could we invite someone to church with us? Could we let people know about the Food Pantry or the Senior Center that maybe doesn't know about them? Can we provide help to those we encounter who may need a helping hand in some way? Jesus healed people often those who were shunned by others. Shouldn't we use Jesus as our example and help others in need. We can support disaster relief through the Lutheran Church. We can help those in need at the Lutheran Home of Mercy. We can support the Lutheran Outdoor Camp program. We can honor Veterans on Veteran's Day. We can vote for items that support others. Always keep in mind that it is our charge to Love one another as God has loved us. Support our reaching out. If you have ideas of projects please share those with me.

Yours in Christ, Pam Van Mooy



GRACE UPON GRACE

Thank you for your gift of \$2,550.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response and your gift of \$668.00 to ELCA World Hunger. As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace. Your generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future, and is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

Rev. Daniel Rift – Director of Congregational Generosity





**Join us on Sunday, September 7,
for our annual
Rally Day Celebration.**

**COME ONE – COME ALL
enjoy worship, fellowship, food, and fun.
Festivities begin at 10:15 a.m.**

Menu – burgers, brats, hotdogs and surprising sides.

LAST CALL

Make your reservation for the Lutheran Women's Gathering on Saturday September 6, 9am-1pm. Bishop Beaudoin will be the guest speaker. Call 419-257-3253 and leave a message. Don't forget your in-kind donations of toiletries and cleaning and laundry supplies.

You are invited to come and lift your voice in praise to God by joining the church choir. Practice will begin on Sunday, September 14, at 9:15 am. **Everyone** 16 and older is welcome to join us. We will plan on singing for worship at least once a month. Please join us!



A Note from Bishop Eaton

I write this note during the final months of service as your presiding bishop. As I prepare for the next chapter in my life and ministry, I feel

hope for our church – and that is because of you. Over the past 12 years, I have seen you rise to meet incredible challenges alongside your siblings in Christ. We know God is calling us forward, even when we don't fully understand where our next steps will take us. Wherever we go, I have faith that you will continue this holy work, and that our community can keep welcoming newcomers, changing lives and transforming our world through Christ's amazing grace. As always, we are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world. Thank you for joining me on the journey.

In Christ's service,
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

God's Work, Our Hands at work

Our second project for this fall is to collect children's underwear, Pull Up Underwear, and socks to donate to Powell Elementary School. We will start to collect these items in September. The sizes should vary. Many times getting back in the school routine is hard for youngsters as they try to regulate 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.



Our third project will be in November. Keep watch for details.

Yours in Christ, Pam Van Mooy



SEPTEMBER KITCHEN SHOWER

Our church kitchen is in need of some items to keep it stocked and ready for our fellowship time & funeral meals. You are invited to “shower” the church kitchen with:



Coffee (regular & decaf), coffee (hot) cups, paper towels, small and large trash can bags, dish soap, new dish rags and towels, and any other disposable kitchen items you wish to donate.

Your generosity is very much appreciated!

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

SEPTEMBER requested donations include **cereals and pork & beans.**

OCTOBER requested donations include canned fruits, veggies, and soups.



Thank you for your continued support of the community mission.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 11:31am.

Attendance

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

Absent – Matt Matthes

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

- June 2025 minutes accepted. There was no meeting in July.
- Motion by Bryant to approve June's minutes, 2nd by Carl. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his June & July report. We are \$4,361.54 in the black.
- Motion by Bryant to approve Clay's reports, 2nd by Suzanne. 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

- Rally Day is set for September 7, 2025.

Property Committee Report

- The air conditioning units have been taken care of in the fellowship hall and upstairs.

Pastor's Report

- VBS attendance was in the 30's. Average child was 8 years old. There were only 3 kids in the oldest group.
- There was discussion between council about how VBS went and possible plans/changes for the future of St. Luke's VBS. Possibility of combining VBS with Good Shepherd & St. James.

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 reminded council members to look over St. Luke's constitution and get our thoughts to him.
 - After discussion between council members about possible changes in our constitution, these changes will be brought to the congregational meeting in November.
- Wood County Committee on Aging
 - WCCA Sign - we did get the okay from the Village of NB for the sign and have agreed where and how to put the sign in our yard, however there's still discussions between St. Luke's and Alisha at WCCA about the sign so things are not finalized yet.
 - A new site manger for NB has been hired and the NB site should soon be opening hopefully by mid-August.
- Gods Work Our Hands update – the Food Pantry directors are really excited about the Thanksgiving in a Bag program (August). The socks/underwear donations for NB's Powell Elementary School (September).
- Parking Lot Project Phase I
 - Bryant received the estimate for the 3rd Street approach of the parking lot.
- Building Clean-Up
 - Pam & JoLynn will work on the books on the shelf in library room.
 - Cleaning out the second floor will soon begin.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

New Business

- There is a member in our congregation who is interested in furthering their leadership skills through Diakonia. Motion by Clay to sponsor said member for payment of enrollment and books. 2nd by Bryant. All approved.
- Clay discussed St. Luke's insurance and had someone look into different companies to compare quotes. St. Luke's is currently insured at a replacement value of \$3.2 million. The

quotes were discussed among council members, and it was decided that we will continue with the \$3.2 million policy because of cost.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for June & July.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:15pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, September 14, 2025 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher



LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for the faithful and generous contributions of the members and friends to the ministry of this congregation; for your love and patience, Lord, as we travel this adventure called life; for teachers, administrators, principals, bus drivers, and all those preparing for the beginning of schools; for all those who graciously contribute to our local food pantry. 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: Dennis Bauer, 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.



Come to the Northwestern Ohio WELCA Synodical Gathering

Friday, September 26th 1:00—7:30 PM
Registration begins at 11:30
Opening Devotions: 1:00 p.m.

Saturday September 27th 9AM—3:00
Registration: 8:30
Opening Devotions: 9:00 am

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
315 College Drive—Bowling Green, Ohio

Join us for
Bible Study * Break-out sessions * Worship Service
◊ Friday night Program * Business Meeting
◊ Fun, food and fellowship
◊ Silent Auction

Hotel accommodations
Holiday Inn—Bowling Green—will need to make own reservations

WHAT TO BRING
*Bible *
Reuseable water bottle
Dress Casual

Join Us!

❖ Worship Ministries ❖

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

SUNDAY, October 5

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

SUNDAY, October 12

Organist: Janet Goldner
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Tiffany Mika
Ushers: Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthew
Videographer: Beth Williams

SUNDAY, October 19

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

SUNDAY, October 26 Reformation Sunday

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

Altar Guild

September - Arica Matthes, Sue Simon
October - JoLynn Stewart, Jill Guy

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

September 7 - [available for signup](#)
September 14 - [available for signup](#)
September 21 - [available for signup](#)
September 28 - [available for signup](#)
October 5 - [available for signup](#)
October 12 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

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

Sunday Bulletins

September - [available for signup](#)
October - Nancy & Jim Wymer

Newsletter

September - Carol Williams
October - Nancy & Jim Wymer









September 2025



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Office Closed	2 Staff Meeting 10:00	3	4	5	6 Central Conference Women's Gathering 9:00 a.m.
Pentecost 13 7	8	9 Staff Meeting 10:00	10	11	12	13
 Worship 10:15						
Dana - vacation						
Pentecost 14 14 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30	15	16 Staff Meeting 10:00	17	18	19	20
Pentecost 15 21 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	22  Elephant Appreciation Day	23 Staff Meeting 10:00	24  October Newsletter Deadline	25	26 Synod WELCA Gathering 1:00 BG	27 Synod WELCA Gathering 9:00 BG
Pentecost 16 28 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Worship 10:15	29	30 Staff Meeting 10:00	<p>Watch for the October Good News Letter for an introduction to the next Bishop of the ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry.</p> <p>As of the printing of this newsletter, the Senior Center is scheduled to open again September 15.</p>			