

# The GOOD NEWS letter



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

## February 2026

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.



<http://www.elca.org/>

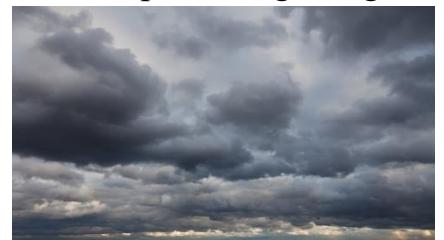


<https://nwos-elca.church/>

Our Vision is to know Christ and make Christ known.

## *A Storm is Coming!*

There's news of a coming storm as I write this. A storm in which an arctic high will collide with a low coming from Baja California carrying a lot of moisture. Sounds like a lot of ice and snow, temps at single digits, windchill at 15 below, oh my. We will better know the results of that by the time you read this. This news prompts preparation, the bananas, milk and toilet paper need to be acquired. Schools close, emergencies get declared, salt or stone is loaded on trucks, and oh, by the way, the bananas are already gone. Some will check that their car has fuel, some that their generator is working, or that the flashlights have new batteries. Some will sit and worry.



So too another storm looms in our future, the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We prepare for that storm as well. We call it Lent. Lent, too, is a



time of preparation, a time to examine ourselves. What does our stock of love look like? Do we know how to restock? Are we aware of the infinite stock that is available to us, free, unlike the bananas, and that, if we check, it's already in our cupboard. Can we see it? Are we ready for the storm? The storm where God's love collides with the world. We can't describe God. We can say he/she/it is like..... Yet many have this image of an old white guy with a flowing beard sitting on a cloud, rather like DaVinci's work on

the Sistine Chapel. Our brain really **REALLY** needs an image. It hates the unknown. It abhors ambiguity.

We all struggle with this. The Israelites struggled with it. That is why they built the golden calf while Moses was getting the Ten Commandments. They needed something to see, to point to. Perhaps that could be a practice for you during Lent this year, examining what you may have constructed as your God. Is it maybe your house or your car? Your business, a thing you spend a lot of time doing, not a hobby but what may look like more of an obsession. Have you stored up? Is that your main focus? Some may

even view their church as God even though it's just a building. The array is endless.

What we do know is that God created everything, seen and unseen and that same creation process goes on yet today. He declared it all good, all of it. Perhaps our focus during lent could be on God or rather on God's love since that is something we can observe. During lent these things are some of the subjects we will be exploring on Wednesday evenings at St Lukes. I would invite everyone to come join us for a Lenten gathering meal and conversation, one where we don't need to bundle up as much for as the coming weather storm.

Paul



## **NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty**

**FEBRUARY** requested donations include laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper

**MARCH** requested donations include non-refrigerated juices, cereals

Let us continue to support this mission for our community. Please give joyfully and generously so that no one goes without. Thanks be to God.

## **God's Work! Our Hands!**

### **In the new year**

For our first service project of the new year, we will be collecting items to make Chicken Noodle Soup Kits for the local Food Pantry. These kits seem to be a big hit with the community. In January, we collected (although not very many) cans of carrots, cans of peas, and cans of cream of chicken soup. For February, we are asking for the rest of the ingredients – chicken bouillon cubes, bags of noodles, packets of Italian Dressing mix, and 2 small cans of chicken breast meat. Please place these

items on the Information Table in the Narthex. Thank You.

## **Scout Sunday February 8**

The Sunday that falls before or on February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) has been designated as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. On February 8, let us celebrate with the scouts in our families, our community, and around the world. Let us join in prayer for all Scouts, especially those in this congregation and community. Let us pray that they may grow in their commitment to God; and that, by his strength, they may attain the goals of Scouting, the goals of physical, mental, social, psychological, and spiritual maturity.



## **The Season of Lent**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent for our church. This has been a noted festival since roughly the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. In the early Christian Church, the East and West didn't always agree on details like 6 weeks or 8 weeks, if Sundays counted, or whether you should fast completely or only give up meat. All agreed that 40 days was the time increment, tying it to the 40 days and nights that Jesus was in the wilderness. Today the 40 days begins on Ash Wednesday with a special service where

ashes are marked on our foreheads. During the service we remember our baptism. During Lent people are often encouraged to give up something (to sacrifice). Whether you give up a special food that you like or fast, sacrificing makes us think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Lent has also been traditionally a time of prayer and reflection in preparation for Easter. It has also been a time when we give to others.

However, you choose to participate in the Lenten season, prepare your mind and spirit for Easter.

Blessings, Pam Van Mooy



## Bold Women's Day — observed



annually on the fourth Sunday of February (Feb 22 this year) —celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers while others are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Others are bold in service to the church through serving on the Church Council. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home, or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold? Celebrate bold women in your life.



## Mark Your Calendar

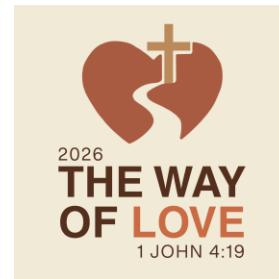
May 23, 2026 @ First Lutheran Church in Findlay for the Spring gathering of the Central Conference of Lutheran Women. Watch for more to come.

## 2026 Synod Assembly Registration is Now Open!

Saturday, May 30, 2026

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
315 S College Dr. Bowling Green, OH  
43402



Please note that registration will be open from January 1, 2026 to April 30, 2026 with a shift in cost after March 31, 2026.

Registration cost is \$100 from January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026.

Late registration will be \$150 from April 1–30, 2026. *The \$50 late fee proceeds will benefit NWOS mission congregations.* Any registration requests after April 30, including same day walk-in requests, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, without guaranteed approval.

Synod Assembly schedules, materials, and further resources will be posted to the [\*\*NWOS Assembly website\*\*](#) as they become available. Please direct any questions to [assembly@nwos-elca.org](mailto:assembly@nwos-elca.org).

# St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 11, 2026

## Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11:30am.

## Attendance

**Present** – Pam VanMooy, Matt Matthes, Suzanne Bucher, Carl Lieser, Bryant Matthes, Tiffany Mika, SAM Paul Brooks

**Absent** – Clay McCartney

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

- December 2025 minutes accepted.
- Motion by Matt to approve October's minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bryant. All approved.

## Financial Secretary's Report

- Carl submitted his December Accounting of Offerings report.
- Motion by Matt to approve Carl's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tiffany. All approved.

## Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his December report. We were \$20,312.91 in the black for the 2025 year end.
- Motion by Bryant to approve Clay's report, subject to the audit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Suzanne. All approved.

## President's Report

- Pam has been advised that our front sliding doors have been malfunctioning and a “beeping” sound has been going off periodically which neighbors have heard. Bryant will notify Clay.
- The Wood County Committee on Aging Senior Center sign has been temporarily installed and will be concreted in later this Spring when the weather is warmer.

## Vice-President's Report

- Nothing to Report

## Discipleship Committee Report

- Donations for the chicken noodle soup kit project has begun.

## Property Committee Report

- The thermostat has been replaced in the office.
- Bryant is working on replacing light fixtures in the office.

## Pastor's Report

- There was discussion about what to do during Lent and some changes for the Lent season.

## Other Committees/Announcements

- Annual reports are due by January 15, 2026.

## Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team

- Nothing to Report

## Unfinished Business

- St. Luke's Constitution Review & Update
  - Council members are working on reviewing St. Luke's Constitution to return to Paul.
- Parking Lot Project
  - Phase 1 – Spring 2026
  - Phase 2 – Bryant will start getting estimates and find out from Clay how many estimates/bids we need to obtain.
- Vacation Bible School 2026
  - Paul advised there will soon be a meeting with Beth and the area churches to start coordinating VBS 2026.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

## New Business

- No New Business

## Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for December.

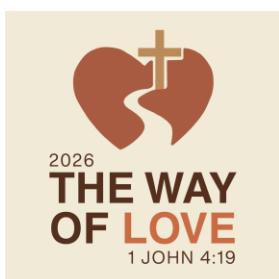
## Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:25pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, February 8, 2026 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

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## The Way of Love!



Welcome to 2026: The Way of Love! As our scripture verse for this year reminds us, “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19). As we journey together with Jesus, we have the great opportunity to encourage each other to grow in both our appreciation for, and reflection of, the love of God.

A 12-session collection of devotions written by leaders from across Northwestern Ohio is available on the Synod website. These 15 to 20 minute devotions are ideal for when church council gathers, when committees or staff meet, or for use at any regular gathering. Each devotional highlights one of the questions addressed by the twelve chapters of our Book of the Year, *Love is the Way: Holding on the Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

In these devotionals, the authors from Northwestern Ohio share their own reflections and perspectives on these questions, and we hope they will prompt good conversation among companions who spend time pondering together. Each monthly devotion follows a simple rhythm: a scripture reading around which the author has chosen to reflect, a story, two discussion questions and a closing prayer.

May you know and grow in the love of God in this year and beyond. (See the calendar page for a special invitation.)

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



**WE GIVE THANKS FOR:** the faithful and generous contributions of members to the ministry of this congregation; the leadership of Paul Brooks and Pastor Ken Pollitz; the faithful and generous contributions of members and friends to the ministry of this congregation. God's gifts and guidance for those called to serve on our Church Council; a new year of opportunities and possibilities. 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, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Mike Thompson, Diana, 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.

## **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, February 1

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

## SUNDAY, February 8

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

## SUNDAY, February 15

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

## WEDNESDAY, February 18 Ash Wednesday

Organist: Janet Goldner  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Jack Sterling  
Videographer: Beth Williams

## SUNDAY, February 22 First Sunday in Lent

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

## SUNDAY, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent

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

## SUNDAY, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent

Organist: Janet Goldner  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: Pam Van Mooy  
Ushers: Jill Guy, Jack Sterling  
Videographer: Beth Williams

## SUNDAY, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

## SUNDAY, March 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

## Altar Guild

February - Karen Krauss, Loraine Ferguson  
March - Karen Krauss, Loraine Ferguson

## ❖ Worship Gifts ❖

## Altar Flowers

February 1 - [available for signup](#)  
February 8 - [available for signup](#)  
February 15 - [available for signup](#)  
February 22 - [available for signup](#)  
February 30 - [available for signup](#)  
March 1 - [available for signup](#)  
March 8 - Jen Carter

## Altar Candles

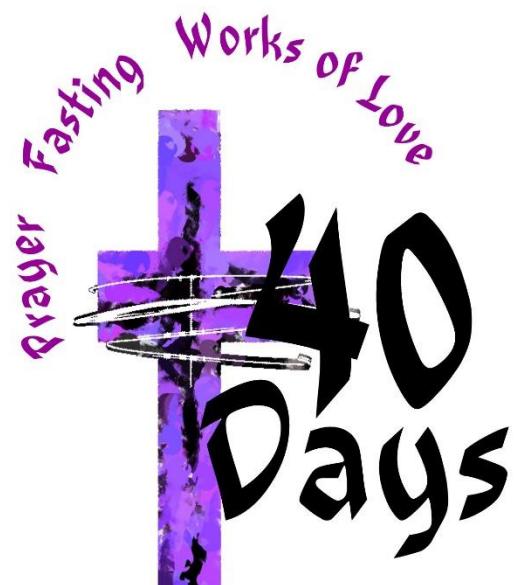
February- [available for signup](#)  
March- [available for signup](#)

## Sunday Bulletins

February- [available for signup](#)  
March- [available for signup](#)

## Newsletter

February- [available for signup](#)  
March- [available for signup](#)





# February 2026



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Epiphany 4</i> 1 <b>Worship 10:15</b>	2	3 Staff Meeting 10:00	4	5	6	7
<i>Epiphany 5</i> 8 <b>Worship 10:15</b> Church Council 11:30	9	10 Staff Meeting 10:00	11	12	13	14 
<i>Transfiguration</i> 15 <b>Worship 10:15</b>	16 	17 Staff Meeting 10:00	18  Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00	19  Newsletter Deadline	20 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	21
<i>Lent 1</i> 22 <b>Worship 10:15</b> <b>Bold Women's Day</b>	23	24 Staff Meeting 10:00	25 Lenten Study 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Discussion	26	27	28

## Wednesday Lent Bible Study

Plan Now to join us on the Wednesdays of Lent for a meal and Bible Study. The name of the series is "The Way of Love" put together by the Northwest Ohio Synod leadership. It is an exploration of what love is, how it is manifested and what our part is in the world. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with discussion to follow. Hope to see you there!

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

Daylight Savings Time  
is March 8

