

The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

March 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 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

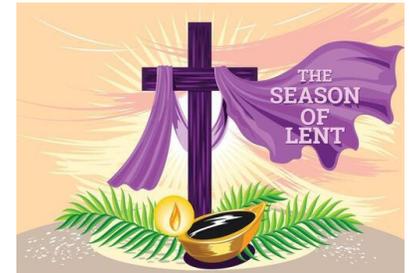
<https://nwos-elca.church/>

Our Vision is to know Christ
and make Christ known.

Lifestyles

Do any of you remember that tv show "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"? I don't remember ever watching it but it sure must have been something. Not being rich or famous, it perplexed me why I should watch it. But just because we aren't rich or famous we still have a lifestyle. If you are a farmer your lifestyle includes following the weather, commodity prices, rough hands, and muddy boots. If you are the farmer's wife it may include dealing with those rough hands and muddy boots as well as trying to address the worried looks your husband sometimes has. If you have a manufacturing lifestyle, there's a schedule of when you need to leave the house and apply for vacation time, adjusting for overtime. A retiree may fret over not having a set schedule anymore, how can I fill my time?

And now we are in the season Lent. We can look at being a Christian as going to church, serving on a committee perhaps, even giving to the food bank program, or doing all those things. Or we can choose to have a Christian lifestyle where that is the place where we start from, not just something we do. We grow weary just doing. Doing out of obligation, or guilt or well, "I've always done this so here goes." We can't describe God. We can talk around it. It's like it says in the Bible but it always comes up just short, a mystery. The one word that nobody questions when used in these descriptions is love. God is love. When we start with that there's a much better motivation in doing things; a better way to approach the day. God loved us first and our response is sending that same love outwards. To strangers, to people we know, to creation, not because we have to or feel guilty if we don't but out of the love God has already given us. That is a Christian lifestyle, not the things you do, but why you do them.



Lent is a time when we can seek the refuge of God, seek revelation, and look for the liberation from ego and empire so that we may fully realize our Christian lifestyle. Amen

Paul Brooks



Well, it is March....

..... and time to check on our New Year's Resolutions! Do you even remember what you said you were going to do? I decided I wanted to reach out to the community this year. I have tried to help with Food Pantry donations. I helped with the Funeral dinner. I have not been following my resolutions as much as I had planned. Today is a time to get back to working on that resolution. We are human and we fail, but the great thing is that God loves us even though we fail. Now we are entering Lent which is a time of reflection as we get ready for Easter. This is a perfect time to get your resolution back in focus or select something else. Whatever you decide, remember that this exercise is to help you be a better person. Even if you fail you are loved.

Blessings, Pam

Ashes on your forehead

Ash Wednesday was celebrated recently. During the service Paul used oil and ashes to mark a cross on our foreheads. At our baptism the words "You are marked with the cross of Christ forever" are spoken. There were other times when painting a cross on a door saved the first born in Egypt. Paul said "From dust you came and to dust you shall return" which links us with creation. The ashes were from the palm branches that were used last Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday Jesus was cheered as he entered Jerusalem and just a short time later, they shouted "Crucify Him!" When I wash the cross off my head at the end of the day, I always think about how my sins have been washed away. This service had a lot of symbolism to reflect on as we begin the Lenten season. Although these things are part of our Christian traditions, it is important that



we reflect on how these traditions began and what they mean.

Blessings, Pam

Cancelling Worship????

This winter has been snowy and colder than usual. The Church Council, for your safety, voted at their February meeting that if either **Hancock OR Wood County** are under a **Level 2 Weather Advisory** on a Sunday morning, our in-person worship service will be cancelled. This puts us on the same page as St. John's so that the pastor does not need to come out for one service when the other is cancelled. We doubt we will need to use this again but now we have a policy that everyone will know.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

MARCH requested donations include non-refrigerated juices and cereals.

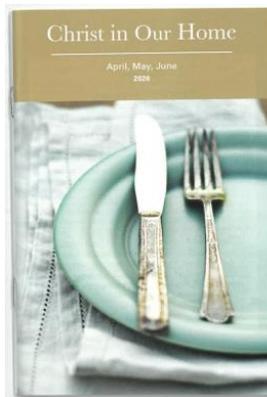


APRIL requested donations include canned fruits, jellies, and soups

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.

Christ in Our Home

The April – June issue of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional is here and can be found on the information table at the church. Pick up a copy when you are in the church or call the church office and Dana will send one to you.



Change in date and location

Re-mark your calendar for April 25, 2026 (not May 23) @ St. Johns (not First) Lutheran Church in Findlay for the Spring gathering of the Central Conference of Lutheran Women. Watch for more to come.

Bulletins, Candles, and Newsletters



Thank you to all who helped to support the work of the church through gifts to our Special Fund. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2026 are posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Also, the opportunity to sign up to provide flowers to the glory of God for our worship services. Thank you for sharing your blessings.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financials' charitable outreach funds go. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to enrolled charities. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice®."

**DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE
DOLLARS® by March 31st.**



World Day of Prayer March 6

.....is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

I Will Give You Rest: Come

Program written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria for 2026

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The WDP Nigerian committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness. As we prepare for WDP 2026, may we learn to embody Jesus' invitation: 'Come to me, all you who are weary.' Together, let us become channels of God's rest in our troubled world.

Go to:

<https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>

where you will find much more information.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday, February 25 through Wednesday, March 25

Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.
Discussion @ 7:00 p.m.

An exploration of what love is
How it is manifested
What our part is in the world

Using excerpts from the book

“Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times”

by Bishop Michael Curry,
the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 215 N. Second St. North Baltimore, Ohio
A limited number of books will be available to purchase @ \$15.00 each

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 11:25am.

Attendance

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

Absent – Tiffany Mika

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

- January 2026 minutes accepted.
- Motion by Matt to approve January's minutes, 2nd by Carl. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Carl submitted his January Accounting of Offerings report.
- Motion by Suzanne to approve Carl's report, 2nd by Matt. All approved. Subject to audit.

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his January report. We are \$5,585.57 in the black.
- Motion by Bryant to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Matt. All approved. Subject to audit.

President's Report

- Pam discussed the status of the 2025 giving statements and year-end reports.
- Additional discussion from Pam will be in the Unfinished and New Business section.

Vice-President's Report

- Nothing to Report

Discipleship Committee Report

- Soup in a bag donations are going well.

Property Committee Report

- Bryant advised there is an issue with our roof leaking, and will begin getting a couple estimates for this to be repaired this coming Spring.

Pastor's Report

- Paul discussed the Lent season coming up and there will be a weekly meal and Bible study on Wednesday's beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Other Committees/Announcements

- Pam advised she received a nice thank you note from Julie Brown to St Luke's thanking us for preparation of her father's (Larry Slaughterbeck) funeral dinner.

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.
- Vacation Bible School 2026
 - Paul advised there will soon be a meeting with Beth and the area churches to start coordinating VBS 2026.
- Sunday Bible study and other issues will continue to be discussed.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

New Business

- All of the Pastors and SAMS will be holding a Renewal of Vows at St. Luke's on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.
- A date for after Easter cleaning will need set.
- Motion by Pam that going forward the annual giving statements will need to always be completed by January 31st, 2nd by Matt. All approved.
- New policy for canceling church services
 - When Wood or Hancock County is on a Level TWO snow emergency, church services for St. Luke's and St. John's will be canceled.
 - Motion by Pam, 2nd by Carl to adapt the new policy. All approved.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for December.

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

March is Women's History Month

March has arrived, and it's time to honor and celebrate women! Women's History Month is a wonderful time to acknowledge the impact of women in your life and on the whole world.

The month ahead is a wonderful time to celebrate all women. Praise be to God for women throughout history. May our intentional acts of remembrance and celebration remind us of the Creator at the center of all life!



LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for our church family and friends who travel alongside us on our journey through Lent; for the Holy Spirit moving in our lives, our congregation, and our world; for the freedom to gather to worship God and offer prayers; for families and friends. 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 Kruse, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Howard Till, Granger, Owen, Mike Thompson, Diana, 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.

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.

**Daylight Savings time
March 8**



❖ Worship Ministries ❖

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*

PALM SUNDAY, March 29

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2

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

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

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

SUNDAY, April 12

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

SUNDAY, April 19

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

Altar Guild

March - Karen Krauss, Loraine Ferguson
April - Karen Krauss

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

March 1 - [available for signup](#)
March 8 - Jen Carter
March 15 - [available for signup](#)
March 22 - [available for signup](#)
March 29 - [available for signup](#)
April 5 - Karen & Lynn Krauss
April 12 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

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

Sunday Bulletins

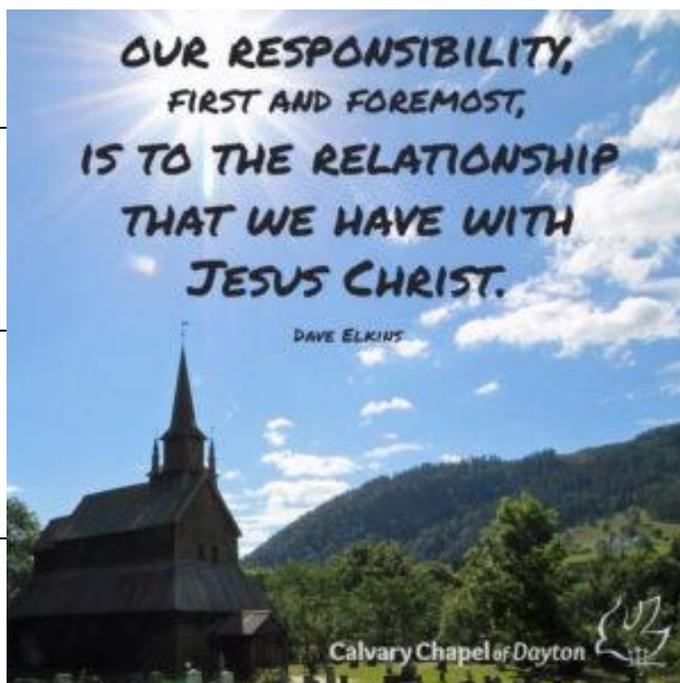
March - [available for signup](#)
April - [available for signup](#)

Newsletter

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

OUR RESPONSIBILITY,
FIRST AND FOREMOST,
IS TO THE RELATIONSHIP
THAT WE HAVE WITH
JESUS CHRIST.

DAVE ELKINS





March 2026



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Lent 2</i> 1 Worship 10:15	2	3 Staff Meeting 10:00	4 Soup/Sandwiches 6:00 Bible Study 7:00	5	6	7 Spring clocks forward
<i>Lent 3</i> 8 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30	9	10 Staff Meeting 10:00	11 Soup/Sandwiches 6:00 Bible Study 7:00	12	13	14
<i>Len 4</i> 15 Worship 10:15	16	17 Staff Meeting 10:00 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!	18 Soup/Sandwiches 6:00 Bible Study 7:00	19	20 Church Office Closed	21
<i>Lent 5</i> 22 Worship 10:15	 April Newsletter Deadline	23 Staff Meeting 10:00	24 Soup/Sandwiches 6:00 Bible Study 7:00	25	26	27
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 29  Worship 10:15	30	31 Synod Affirmation of Vows 11:00 am	Synod Affirmation of Vows As part of the Chrism Mass, ministers (all rostered leaders and SAMs) are invited to reaffirm the vows made at ordination. Looking Ahead: Maundy Thursday Worship, April 2 @ 7:00 p.m. Easter Breakfast, April 5 @ 9:00 a.m. Easter Worship, April 5 @ 10:15 a.m.			