

The  
**GOOD NEWS**  
Letter

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

April 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.**

## Look for the Sign

I am the way, follow me, the way is narrow. These are all phrases we are familiar with, but have we ever fully examined them? We are in the season of the cross, we live in the shadow of the cross all our lives as humans. Are we aware? Is the cross a scary thing for us? Are we afraid of death? Our context, the only one we have, is our being as individuals, as humans who live for a rather short time on a ball, spinning around as it itself spins in an even wider arch around a nuclear reaction we call the sun. It's a rather poor context when we consider our direct connection to all that is around us. The sun supplies all of our energy. That, coupled with the earth, supplies all of our water and nourishment, does not leave us as individuals but a component of a larger system, all connected to the one, the big one.

Yet we see ourselves as separate, or should I say our egos sees ourselves as separate. Jesus calls us back, back to the one, I am the way, follow me, but know the way is narrow. Our existence here on earth puts us in a place where we get to make choices. We can fear the future and death, we can ignore the inevitable, or we can recognize that we live in the shadow of the cross, a place that gives hope. We have spent the last couple of weeks listening to the gospel telling us of how Jesus conducted himself in the time leading up to his crucifixion. He knew it was coming. He knew the choices the leaders would take. He knew because there were people involved, people with empire sitting on their shoulders, empire that finds embracing love usually aberrant and would much rather resort to violence.

On the cross Jesus defeated death, not just for him but for all. We are no longer considered individuals at this point but children of God and recipients of all that entails, if we choose to be aware. Being a follower of Jesus is a lifestyle, a different way, a rather narrow way, a way that takes any fear away because, just like Jesus, there is no fear of death, knowing that death has been defeated. Our illusion of being individual bodies and no more, is just that. We belong to God and are a part of the one just as Jesus is a part of that one. Let us look to the cross as a sign of Christ proceeding before us opening the path to eternal life, fear not, the lord, the one, is our shepherd.

Blessings from Paul



## Easter Traditions

Easter is filled with traditions that we expect but probably don't really think about until we observe them on Easter morning. Easter is a time for getting an Easter Basket filled with all kinds of goodies. Chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, peeps, and colored eggs. Some baskets come with no eggs and the children have to search around the house for eggs that the bunny hid. I remember a time when we searched for one hardboiled egg for about a week before it was finally found! When I was a child, I remember going shopping for a new Easter dress and shoes. And always an Easter hat or bonnet! Those traditions may have changed over the years but they were rooted in meaning. The idea of new clothes for Easter was a symbol of renewal and awakening. It was a symbol of Jesus' resurrection. The Easter bonnet usually also was tied to the new season of spring, which is also a time of renewal and rebirth. These traditions are also part of the celebration of Easter. What a joyous occasion it is. After the season of Lent, which is a time of reflection and prayers for our failings and shortcomings, we burst forth with the celebration of Easter. It is a time of joy and uplifted spirits as we understand what God has done for us. This is a time of renewal. Our Easter traditions reflect that. At St. Luke's we have flowers of spring placed at the altar and a white cloth draped on the large cross. We sing joyful songs and include Alleluia. We have an Easter breakfast together as a family of believers and we hear again the familiar story of Mary and the disciples going to the tomb of Jesus and not finding him there. What a story they had to tell! May the season of Easter bloom in your heart! Come and enjoy our traditions with us! We'd love to see you in an Easter Bonnet!



## The silence of our Worship Service

Our worship service is a time of quiet. Each Sunday Janet plays a Prelude. During this organ or piano selection, the bulletin asks us to reflect and quietly breathe. It is to set our hearts to be ready for the service. We sing the hymns, respond in the appropriate places and pray. We listen to the message. We are encouraged to greet each other during the Sharing of the Peace. Talking during the service has been discouraged by parents from the beginning of time. Many of us can remember the stern look or hand on your shoulder when you got noisy in the pew. Remember, conversations while you wait for others to complete communion should be kept to a minimum as the time after communion is meant to be spent in prayer or in quiet reflection.

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## NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

**APRIL** requested donations include canned fruits, jellies, and soups.

**MAY** requested donations include canned meats, Kleenex, paper towels.

Served the first quarter of 2026:

Jan: 20 families/41 people

Feb: 19 families/43 people

Mar: 21 families/40 people



## to Ponder

At our recent Church Council meeting we discussed the teaching of the Gospel and how we do that at St. Luke's. We had a Bible Study on Lenten Wednesday nights focused on Love. There were around 17 at each meal and Bible Study. The thought occurred to us that maybe it was time to relook at our Sunday School program which in the past included Catechism students, children and adults during the 9-10am hour.

Since we have had nothing in place it is the time to evaluate and maybe reimagine this offering. Here are some questions to ponder...Do we want to start a Sunday school program for kids? Do we want a class for adults? Do we want an in-betweeners class (no longer kids but not senior citizens either. Do we want a class for married couples? Or singles? Do we want it on Sunday mornings or some evening? Do we want a Bible Study during the day (if you don't drive after dark?) Do we want the class from 9-10, 11:30-12:30, or some other time and day? Are you interested in leading or teaching a class? Is there a special topic you are interested in? Think seriously about the options mentioned. Talk with others you know in other churches and find out what they do that seems to be working. Is there some way we could make it work here? Sometimes a blank slate is a time of innovation. Let Pam Van Mooy or Paul Brooks know your thoughts about this subject.

## Are you interested?



St. Luke's Church Council is seeking input and interest in restarting our Sunday School program. We discussed and feel starting an elementary class (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) might be a good way to start. At this point we are trying to see if we have some people who might be interested in teaching this class from Rally Day in September through May, with the summer off. If we had multiple people, the teaching responsibility could be rotated. We have not finalized whether the class would be from 9am -10 am or during the church hour. We would purchase a curriculum that would be taught. We want the class to be meaningful and fun. It might be a short Bible lesson, small activity and a snack

for instance. This will be decided by the teachers. At this point we feel we only need one class but we may expand in the future. Please let Pam Van Mooy or Paul Brooks know if you are interested or have some questions.

## Vegetable Barley and Potato Soup Recipes:

Authors note: *I received a request for the vegetable barley and potato soup recipes from the Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Bible Study. Much to the consternation of my wife, Tiffany, who always works from a recipe, I instead begin with the size pot I want to fill and then lay out items on the table until I think the pot will be full. I make enough so I can freeze some for sharing at a future date. Before I set pen to paper, I had to stare at some of the soup I made and think "Now how did I make that?". Quantities provided are thus approximate (enough to fill one large size pot). So, in fellowship, I share my recipes on the Information Table in the Narthex at the church.* Tom Mika

## Come and See



Plan now to join the Central Conference Lutheran Women's Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 25, at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 Tiffin Avenue, Findlay, Ohio. There will be food, worship, a program and singing. Watch your email and snail mail for more details.



# **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

## Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 8, 2026

### **Opening**

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 11:32am.

### **Attendance**

Present – Pam VanMooy, Suzanne Bucher, Clay McCartney, Carl Lieser, Paul Brooks

Absent – Matt Matthes, Bryant Matthes

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

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

### **Financial Secretary's Report**

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Clay submitted his March report. We are \$4,330.52 in the black.
- Motion by Suzanne to approve Clay's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tiffany. All approved. Subject to audit.

### **President's Report**

- Pam advised that Scott, the NB WCCOA site manager, will be leaving his position in early April, so they are actively looking for a new site manager.
- Additional discussion from Pam will be in the Unfinished and New Business section.

### **Vice-President's Report**

- Nothing to Report

### **Discipleship Committee Report**

- Tiffany advised there are now 17 “Soup in a Bags”.
- Lenten meals are going great – an average of 17 are attending.

### **Property Committee Report**

- Pam mentioned two lights being out in the fellowship hall.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Paul advised that he and Ken will switch Sunday's this month and now Ken will lead our service on Sunday, March 15.
- Paul mentioned a family reached out to him about attending our church. They have 3 kids, and wanted information on what we have to offer for their kids. So it was decided that we are going to try to bring Sunday School back and invite other church member's families to

join. We will be in need of 2 maybe 3 Sunday School leaders if this happens that can alternate with each other for one new Sunday School class.

### **Other Committees/Announcements**

- Nothing to Report

### **Mutual Ministry/Transition Team/Call Committee Team**

- Nothing to Report

### **Unfinished Business**

- Renewal of Vows Meeting with all of the area Pastors and SAMS will be held at St. Luke's on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 9am-2pm.
- 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 – double check with Garrett Carles to make sure we are still one of the first jobs to be done (Suzanne did check with Garrett before the minutes were finalized and Garrett will be taking care of the job as soon as the weather breaks).
  - Phase 2 – Bryant is getting estimates so that the cost can be voted on at a Congregational Meeting hopefully in May.
- Vacation Bible School 2026
  - Paul is still trying to communicate with other area Pastors, but is having trouble hearing back from them to coordinate a planning meeting.
- Sunday Bible study and other issues will be discussed at an upcoming Spring Congregational Meeting.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

### **New Business**

- Yearend report is completed.
- A date for after Easter cleaning will need set.
- It has been decided that Council would like to see a weekly (or as needed) informational email sent to our members concerning announcements of any deaths, births, weddings, sickness & health, graduations, and any other important information. Pastor Ralph did something like this, and we would like to begin this again. Pam will talk to Dana about starting this up again.

### **Statistical Report**

- Went over the statistical report for February.

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:07pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

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



**WE GIVE THANKS FOR:** for those who prepared the meals, those who lead, and those who participated in the Wednesday Lenten Bible study; for those who serve as Scripture Readers and Prayer Leaders in our worship; for the presence of our church building and ministry in the North Baltimore community; for Jen Carter, Tiffany & Tom Mika, and Ruth & Dwight Patterson who have given beautiful flower arrangements that give Glory to God and brighten our worship; and for the leadership of those leading our Lenten Bible Study and providing the meals. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Lorraine Ferguson, Pat Wheeler, Rut Heilman, Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, 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:** Heather Wymer, 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](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 Yehiel Curry, 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.

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## 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](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)). Thank you for your assistance in keeping our Prayer List up-to-date.

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## ❖ Worship Ministries ❖

### **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: *Jack Sterling*  
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*

### **SUNDAY, April 26**

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

### **SUNDAY, May 3**

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

### **SUNDAY, May 10**

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

### **SUNDAY, May 17**

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

### **Altar Guild**

April - *Karen Krauss*  
May - *Karen Krauss*

## ❖ Worship Gifts ❖

### **Altar Flowers**

April 5 - *Karen & Lynn Krauss*  
April 12 - [available for signup](#)  
April 19 - [available for signup](#)  
April 26 - [available for signup](#)  
May 3 - [available for signup](#)  
May 10 - [available for signup](#)  
May 17 - [available for signup](#)

### **Altar Candles**

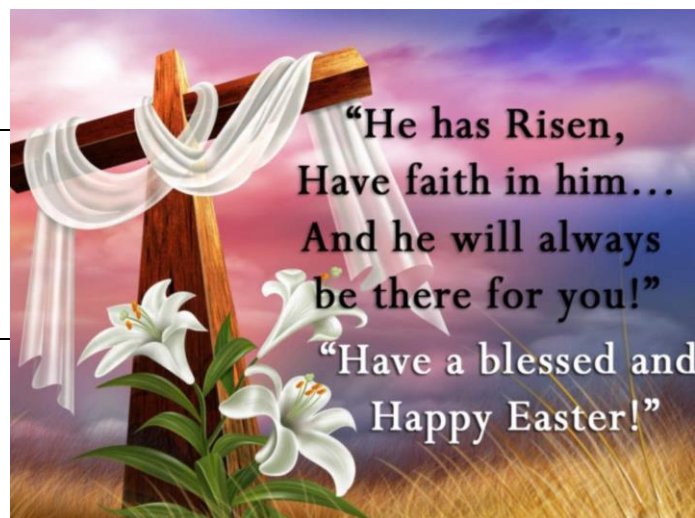
April - [available for signup](#)  
May - [available for signup](#)

### **Sunday Bulletins**

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

### **Newsletter**

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





# April 2026



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>
<b>Easter Sunday 5</b> <b>Breakfast 9:00</b> <b>Worship 10:15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Staff Meeting 10:00	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Easter 2 12</b> <b>Worship 10:15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Staff Meeting 10:00	<b>15</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Easter 3 19</b> <b>Worship 10:15</b> <b>Church Council 11:30</b>	<b>20</b>  Please note change in date.	<b>21</b> Staff Meeting 10:00	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Easter 4 26</b> <b>Worship 10:15</b>	<b>30</b>					