

The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

August 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.

Late summer

We have crested the hill of summer and now descend into harvest. There're some tomatoes; there're beans, squash and corn. There're weeds. We need to be on the lookout for pests and weeds lest they harm our plants, reduce our yield. I have a couple thistles in my beans I need to pull but I need to take my gloves because thistles defend themselves.



Vegetables aren't the only thing I tend to harvest. Often when I study the Bible, I don't pick a subject or a book, I just let the Bible fall open. So today I let it fall open. My eye always falls where it should. What I saw was, "*greet each other with a holy kiss.*" Hmmm, not feeling inspired.

So, I did it again. I let it fall open. Now I have learned that coincidence is not a thing, that the Holy Spirit won't make me do something, but may make it more difficult not to. I kid you not, it had fallen open to another book and here again, "*greet each other with a holy kiss.*" So holy kiss it is, unity, not division.

A holy kiss was the greeting that believers in the early church greeted each other with. I had read it before but it had never caught my attention. Its referenced 5 times in the New Testament. It is still practiced in some Baptist churches while most others have turned it into a handshake with a "*peace be with you,*" like we do. It is a sign of peace and unity within the group.

The next verses though are the reason I stayed in this section. I'm in Romans 16, "*I urge you brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving Christ our Lord, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of naive people.*" Gee, we don't have to look to far to find examples of division and obstacles. We may want to examine just who we are and what we put first? There are many slick-talking, misguiding messages presented to us every day. Buy this, vote for him/her, believe this; it can be very confusing. We may have some brand loyalty as to product or party, but where do we start?

Have we considered or forgotten that our true loyalty lies with Christ and his message first. That is where we start, Christ and his message. We as Christians get a hand in picking leaders, in our church and in our state and national government. We have freedom of choice to consider if a product supports stewardship of God's creation before a purchase. We are capable of considering if a leader mirrors Christ's teachings before considering him/her to lead us. We have a brain to consider if this person's teachings are merely self-serving. Division is not God's will, cling to Christ and his teachings.

"Peace be with you" (holy kiss), and Timothy says "Hi." – Paul

Anniversary Wishes

Tiffany, here is to all our yesterdays and tomorrows to come. All my love on our 30th Anniversary, August 10, 2026.

Tom



NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty

AUGUST requested donations include mac 'n cheese and pork & beans.

SEPTEMBER requested donations include peanut butter, jellies, and cereals.

Thank you for your support.

Abundance to Share

Summer is here!! The gardens are thriving! If you have extra, you can bring them on Sunday morning and put them on one of the round tables. If there are vegetables or fruits and plastic bags on the table, take what you can use. We want to share and we don't want to waste the bounty. Thank you.

Looking Back – Looking Ahead

Recently I had the opportunity to work on the North Baltimore **150 Book** that is being written about our community. It is a look back at our history and also a glimpse of the community today. The purpose is to have a written record for future generations to have to look back upon when we are not here to answer questions. In looking at the history of the churches in this village. I was amazed at the strength people in this early community found in having a church. Many of the churches came together in individual homes before they had a church building in which to meet. Many of the first churches burned or were razed to build a more modern building of brick and stone. St. Luke's was not the first church but did organize in the 1890's. They met in the Henry Opera House before renting a hall to continue meeting. In 1901 they built their first brick church on Second St. After many years they bought additional property and collected money for the new church, starting first with Luther Hall and later adding the sanctuary. How proud they must

have been to have this beautiful new church! They realized that they had a place in this community.

We have a place in this community, too. We still hold services and even display our services through technology for anyone to see. We do community projects such as the food pantry and feed the children work. We share our facility with the Wood County Committee on Aging as their meeting site. We participated in the community Vacation Bible School. St. Luke's Lutheran Church may have fewer people attend services regularly on Sunday mornings but we still have a strength that radiates into our community. My hope is that our history is important but our future is, as well. We all have work to do to keep this church vibrant and active for years to come. It is our legacy for future generations. Blessings, Pam



Calling All Women

The Fall Gathering of the Central Conference Lutheran Women will take place at Arcadia Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 18, beginning at 12:15 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 for lunch. The theme is "Blossom and Bloom." An in-kind donation of personal care items will be received. Watch for more details. Plan now to participate.

Family Funday 2026 --

August 15 -- from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- @ North Baltimore Park. Hosted by Praise Chapel in Cygnet, there will be walking tacos, bounce houses, give aways, raffles and more. Bring the family and come on out and have a FUNDAY!

Praise Chapel is inviting donations of food, toys for kids, and school supplies. For more

information call or text Brandy @ 419-575-8737.

Golf Anyone????



The Luther Home of Mercy invites you to their Annual Golf Outing on Friday, August 21 at Maumee Bay State Park, in Oregon, OH.

There are numerous ways to get involved with the outing and support their ministry to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information go to www.lutherhome.org. You may also call Melissa Gregg at 419-972-4338, or mgregg@lutherhome.org. Check out the bulletin board at the church for more info and for registration forms.

A Day Devoted to Love of Our Neighbors and Church

"God's work. Our hands." is the ELCA's annual day of service, taking place Sept. 13, 2026. It is a blessed opportunity for all our congregations to celebrate who we are as a church, engaging in projects and activities that explore our convictions as Lutherans: that all life in Jesus flows from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The ELCA is one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor every day.

We have resources available, in English and Spanish, to tell the good news about this special event and guide you in crafting activities that show the world the difference that God's grace and love in Christ make in our daily lives. This call to service unites all

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God's work. Our hands.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Opening

Matt called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, July 12, 2026, at 11:37am.

Attendance

Present – Matt Matthes, Suzanne Bucher, Carl Lieser, Bryant Matthes, Tiffany Mika

Absent – Pam VanMooy, Clay McCartney, Paul Brooks

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

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

Financial Secretary's Report

- Carl submitted his June Accounting of Offerings report.
- Motion by Bryant to approve Carl's report, 2nd by Tiffany. All approved. Subject to audit.

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his June report. We are \$3,709.36 in the red.
- Motion by Bryant to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Suzanne. All approved. Subject to audit.

President's Report

- Nothing to Report

Vice-President's Report

- A donation was received from Eloise Matthes, in memory of Carl Matthes, to cover the cost of the newly purchased AED.

Discipleship Committee Report

- In June we celebrated graduates and collected macaroni & cheese cups for the kids.

Property Committee Report

- Don Stewart advised Bryant that he will take care of getting the lights replaced at Menards at no cost since they are fairly new.

Pastor's Report

- Nothing to Report

Other Committees/Announcements

- Nothing to Report

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.
- Roof Replacement/Repair
 - Bryant spoke with Paul and he will be helping Bryant out and taking more of the lead on getting additional roof estimates.
- The remainder of the partitions will soon be taken down.

New Business

- Landscaping & Trimming
 - Bryant will get a hold of Sean Mills to trim trees/bushes & take care of weeds.
 - In the off season, we will look into finding someone new to mow church yard in 2027 and find someone that will hopefully take care of everything – mowing, weeds, trimming, edging and Fall clean up.
- Window Blessing – follow up next month when Paul is here.
- Bryant will call Baltz Plumbing & Heating to service our air conditioners.
- St. Luke's contribution was taken care of towards the VBS held at Good Shepherd.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for June.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 11:55am.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, August 9, 2026 @ 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher

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A Day Devoted to Love of Our Neighbors and Church

ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors.

With so many meaningful ways to serve in our cities and communities, congregations can research the opportunities that make the best use of their capacities to deepen their members' experience and meet their community's needs. Congregations are welcome to partner with other ELCA churches and are encouraged to hold their service events after their worship or arrange for a brief worship service at their event site. "God's work. Our hands." is an amazing way for people of different abilities and ages to work alongside one another.



LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: those who gathered 129 years ago with a vision of St. Luke's Lutheran Church here in North Baltimore; our Church Council members who work diligently, giving of their time and talents for the well-being of our congregation; the freedom to celebrate all sorts of occasions; and the United State of America and the freedoms we so often take for granted! Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Mike Ferguson, Ron Bean, Ned Slaughterbeck, Lorraine Ferguson, Pat Wheeler, Rut Heilman, Lois Heilman, Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, Lisa Claybaugh, Bertha Carter, Eloise Matthes, Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, John Stewart, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Cheryl Kruse, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Brianne Gott, Delphia Roberts, Charles Edens, Dennis Bauer, Heather Wymer, Granger, Owen, Diana, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Nickie Whitman, Eli Swartz, Mr. Doherty, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, 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 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.

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 2

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

SUNDAY, August 9

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

SUNDAY, August 16

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

SUNDAY, August 23

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

SUNDAY, August 30

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

SUNDAY, September 6

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

SUNDAY, September 13

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

SUNDAY, September 20

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

SUNDAY, September 27

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

Altar Guild

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

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

August 2 - Karen & Lynn Krauss
August 9 - [available for signup](#)
August 16 - [available for signup](#)
August 23 - [available for signup](#)
August 30 - [available for signup](#)
September 6 - [available for signup](#)
September 13 - [available for signup](#)

Altar Candles

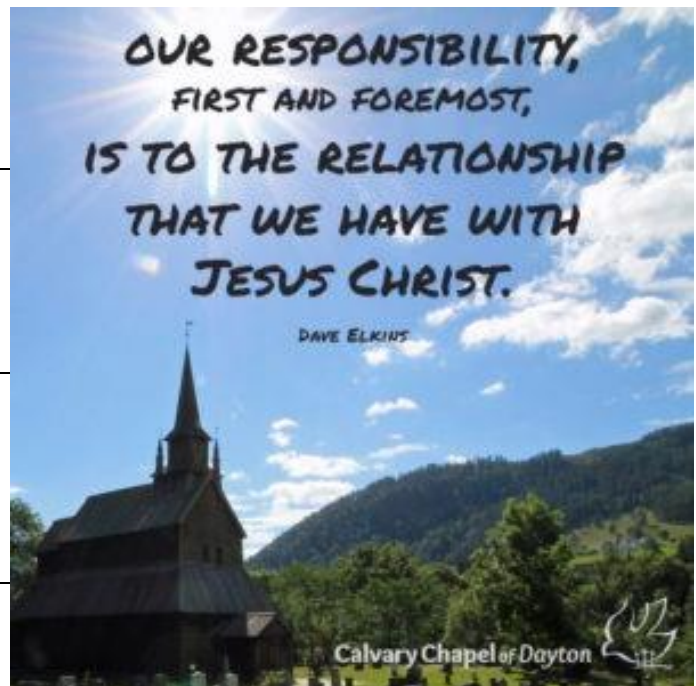
August - Anonymous
September - [available for signup](#)

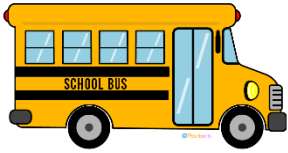
Sunday Bulletins

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

Newsletter

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





August 2026



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
World Elephant Day is an international event held annually on August 12 to protect and preserve African and Asian elephants. It was started in 2012 by filmmaker Patricia Sims and Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation. https://worldelephantday.org/						1
<i>Pentecost 10</i> 2 Worship 10:15	3	4 Staff Meeting 10:00	5	6	7	8
<i>Pentecost 11</i> 9 Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30	10	11 Staff Meeting 10:00	12 World Elephant Day 	13	14 Church Office Closed	15
<i>Pentecost 12</i> 16 Worship 10:15	17	18 Staff Meeting 10:00	19 1st day of school for students in North Baltimore	20	21  Newsletter Deadline	22
<i>Pentecost 13</i> 23 Worship 10:15	24	25 Staff Meeting 10:00	26	27	28	29
<i>Pentecost 14</i> 30 Worship 10:15	31	Looking ahead to September – September 7 is Labor Day and the church office will be closed. September 12-20 Dana will be on vacation.				