

The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

September 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

419-722-8625

SAM Jack Sterling

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.

School busses and onions!

The new school year is upon us. The mornings are cool. We need to be mindful of more groups of children crossing streets, of buses with lights ablaze as children embark on their day. Some of you spent many years as teachers or other roles in a school, some are still engaged with it. Many can remember when their own children were still attending. All in the pursuit of education, the taking in of more information. Information that we can then apply to our lives, hopefully for the benefit of the world around us.



We do this every year, almost as if it were a cycle as we spiral upward in our learning. We do this cycle even in our church life, becoming students once again. This year we will start our educational program (Bible Study) on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. We will change venues monthly beginning at St. Luke's. I look forward to seeing you there. It is important to continue to learn, to press forward in our understanding lest we become stuck, mired down. We must engage in the cycle. I was just



having a conversation with someone the other day about this very thing. We engage with a learning, sometimes a hard difficult thing, and come to a conclusion that looks like the finish line after a time. We then discover that there's something else, there seems to be more. It's as if the whole thing, whatever it is, resembles an onion. As we take off a layer it reveals another and then another, it doesn't end. We can rest for a bit, and we do. We don't have to engage with the same intensity all the time but it's important to engage with it. Hopefully you have a daily spiritual practice, praying, reading a devotional or the Bible. If you don't and aren't sure where to start, let me know, we can get you started. If you have taken some time off from yours, it's time to engage again. Philippians 3:14 says *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

See you on the 16th - Paul

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

My, what images and emotions those old hymns we have been singing during our worship recently can evoke. Even though we are only singing the first verse and maybe a chorus, these songs are like a warm familiar blanket. This song was one of my dad's favorites. He never sang very loudly in church (said he didn't have a singing voice), but there were a few songs I remember him singing a bit louder. This was one of them. He told me once that he and some of the other sailors on his LST would sing "old time hymns" during quiet times when they were a little afraid or homesick for home and love ones. They were a long way from the fields of northwest Ohio and other places in the U.S. but those songs were a nod to HOME.

This song also gives me comfort when I am stressed or overwhelmed with work or life. It lets me focus on the cross of Jesus and all that he did for me. That cross is a mighty rock in a weary world, a home to rest and a place to lay down your burdens. It is a place where we can give all our troubles to Jesus. What comfort that thought gives!

Our service lessons have been focusing on the commandments, especially the first one. *I am the Lord your God, put no other gods before me.* We, as human beings, think we can do everything. We can do it ourselves. We can plan and carry out those plans and sometimes things work out ok, but other times we get overwhelmed or confused and things don't work out so well. That may be when we turn to God. We should turn to God first! We should look to the cross and give all of our burdens to God. In these stressful times remember to stand beneath the cross of Jesus and rest and give your burdens to Jesus.



Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land, a home within a wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat
And burdens of the day.

Blessings in the cross, Pam

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty



SEPTEMBER requested donations include peanut butter, jelly, cereals

OCTOBER requested donations include detergent, dish soap, toilet

paper

Served the second quarter of 2026:

Apr: 17 families/33 people

May: 22 families/42 people

June: 19 families/37 people

Thank you for your gracious support.



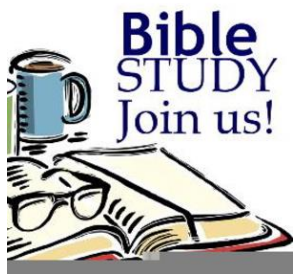
September 13th

What is a Rally Day? It is a time to come together for a common purpose. During the summer our many activities and vacations and events continually draw congregation members away from each other, especially on weekends. Come the end of the summer, we

need a “renewal of energy” when it comes to spiritual matters.

It is hard to renew your energy on your own, but is much easier as a group. That is why we set aside a special day at the end of the summer to “rally”- to draw together for the common purpose of seeking the Holy Spirit’s power to renew our energy for worship, for digging into God’s Word, for praying, and for serving others.

Join us on **September 13th** as we come together to renew our energy. We will have a special meal together with our church family after worship. The meat, from City Barbecue, and drinks will be provided. We ask that the congregation bring a side dish and a dessert to share. This Pot Luck lets us share a meal with our church family. We want as many people here, so let’s fill the pews.



We are beginning a new Bible Study this fall. Beginning Wednesday, **September 16th at 6:30 PM**, we will come together for a combined Bible Study with St.

John’s members. We will meet at St. Luke’s church in Luther Hall. Instead of having a multi week course of study we will be studying the upcoming Sunday lessons in more detail. There will be coffee available. Each session will be approximately one hour long and under the direction of SAM Paul Brooks. Come and join in the discussion and study of God’s Word.



God’s work. Our hands.



In the past few years, we have prepared “Birthday Bags” and “Soup in a Bag” for the local food pantry. They have been well received and it was an easy way for us to reach out to our community. We also collected food items this summer for the Powell School pantry.

Sunday, **September 20th** we are asking congregation members to bring in a jar of spaghetti sauce, your choice, to put with a box of spaghetti. The spaghetti pasta has already been donated. We want to collect at least 20 jars of sauce. After church we will pack the sauce and spaghetti in bags to give to our local food pantry. This shelf stable meal will be a welcome addition to their shelves. Please bring your sauce and place it on the information table by September 20!

In September we will also be collect children’s underwear and socks for Powell School, as we have done in the past. Thank you for you participation in God’ Work.

Blossom and Bloom

The Fall Gathering of the Central Conference Lutheran Women will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arcadia on **Sunday, October 18**, beginning at 12:15 p.m. The

cost is \$7.00 for lunch. The theme is “Blossom and Bloom.” Karla Yoakam with “Barnyard Posies” will present a program. An in-kind donation of personal care items will be received. Watch for more details. Plan now to join us for fellowship and celebrating women.





Growing in Faith (formerly Diakonia) is a ministry of theological education and faith formation designed for lay leaders and lifelong learners who want to deepen their understanding of Scripture, Lutheran theology, and Christian discipleship. Offered in partnership by the **Northwestern Ohio Synod** and **Northeastern Ohio Synod**, the 2026–2027 course offerings provide flexible opportunities to grow in faith alongside others from across Ohio. Learn more about upcoming classes and registration at [**Growinginfaithohio.org**](https://growinginfaithohio.org)!

Grow in Faith! The 2026–2027 Growing in Faith (formerly Diakonia) courses are now available. Join fellow learners from across the Northwestern and Northeastern Ohio Synods as you deepen your faith, explore Scripture, and grow as a disciple of Jesus. Learn more and register at [**Growinginfaithohio.org**](https://growinginfaithohio.org)!

Dear friend,

The past few weeks tell an important story about Lutheran Disaster Response.

In just 14 days, we've connected with partners and communities just beginning their journeys to recover from storms, flooding, wildfires and earthquakes. Those partners are spread across Colorado, Hawai'i, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin; across Colombia, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

But this isn't a story about reach — it's a story about commitment to accompanying our neighbors in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and until the response is complete.

We walk with our partners and their communities until the work is done. Because that's what we do.

In a culture shaped by the next breaking news alert, attention to disasters and humanitarian crises is often fleeting. The reality for survivors is different. Recovery takes weeks, months or years.

Families displaced by war in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine are still searching for safety. In Myanmar, earthquake survivors are rebuilding amid ongoing conflict.

The cameras have largely moved on. Lutheran Disaster Response stays. Because that's what we do.

When communities ask for help in the wake of disaster, we respond. When recovery stretches on for months or years, we stay engaged. And when our global companions strengthen their resilience and respond to local emergencies, we stand with them.

Today, I invite you to join us again to support the ministry of Lutheran Disaster Response in accompanying disaster survivors — from day one until the work is done. Your gift helps ensure that our response isn't limited by the news cycle. It allows us to accompany communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery.

Most important, your generosity reminds our neighbors they have not been forgotten.

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<https://give.elca.org/s/5920754/5bSRwd9P>

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Opening

Pam called the regular meeting of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council to order on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 11:27am.

Attendance

Present – Pam VanMooy, Suzanne Bucher, Clay McCartney, Carl Lieser, Tiffany Mika Paul Brooks, Jack Sterling

Absent – Matt Matthes, Bryant Matthes

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

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

Financial Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

- Clay submitted his July report. We are \$6,463.70 in the red.
- Motion by Carl to approve Clay's report, 2nd by Suzanne. All approved. Subject to audit.

President's Report

- Pam received 2 emails from the ELCA concerning SAMs. Jack Sterling is now listed as a SAM.

Vice-President's Report

- Nothing to Report

Discipleship Committee Report

- Tiffany will be taking care of getting a plaque to be placed above the AED unit "In Memory of Carl Matthes" for the contribution received from Eloise Matthes.
- Breakfast bars will continue to be collected thru August for donation to the Powell School.

Property Committee Report

- The front door has been repaired.

Pastor's Report

- Bible Study will begin in September and probably be held on Wednesday evening.
- Pastor's Report will be mainly under Unfinished Business.

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
 - Paul suggested that he and Bryant, and hopefully another volunteer, will take care of an emergency repair to our roof in October to get through the Winter. Paul will continue to get quotes for the permanent roof repair to hopefully be completed in Spring 2027.
- Landscaping
 - Suzanne and/or Pam will take care of getting in touch with Sean Mills to help with immediate attention to our landscaping issues – weeds, trimming. Motion by Tiffany to hire Sean Mills, 2nd by Carl. All approved.
 - Suzanne will take care of getting 2-3 quotes now for the regular mowing, trimming and weeding for the 2027 season so that it can be calculated in the 2027 Budget that comes out in November 2026.
- Bryant will call Baltz Plumbing & Heating to service our air conditioners.
- Motion by Carl to pay for the restoration of the 2 stained glass windows thru the Memorial Fund money, 2nd by Tiffany. All approved.
- Paul will take care of seeing that the remainder of the partitions are taken care down.
- Sound System Repair – Rick has called and left a message with the company.

New Business

- Rally Day – Sunday, September 13, 2026
 - This year Rally Day will be a pot luck. St. Luke's will provide the meat, and we are asking everyone to bring their favorite dish to share.

Statistical Report

- Went over the statistical report for July.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned @ 1:02pm.
- Next council meeting – Sunday, September 20, 2026 @ 11:00am (1 week later)

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Bucher



LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS,



WE GIVE THANKS FOR: for all of life's blessings; for the leadership of Paul Brooks and Jack Sterling, and for those who serve as Ushers, Altar Guild members, Scripture Readers, and Prayer Leaders; for the presence of our church building and ministry in the North Baltimore community; ; for all those who are preparing for the beginning of school; for Beth Williams and her dedication of recording and posting our Worship Service every week. Thanks

be to God!

MEMBERS: Ruth McKee, Mike Ferguson, Ron Bean, Ned Slaughterbeck, Lorraine Ferguson, Pat Wheeler, Rut Heilman, Lois Heilman, 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.

(continued from page 4)

Thank you for helping us accompany our neighbors through some of life's most difficult moments. Thank you for staying when others move on.

In Christ,

Maryn Olson

Director, Lutheran Disaster Response, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

❖ Worship Ministries ❖

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

SUNDAY, October 4

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

SUNDAY, October 11

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

SUNDAY, October 18

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

SUNDAY, October 25 Reformation Sunday

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

Altar Guild

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

❖ Worship Gifts ❖

Altar Flowers

September 6 - [available for signup](#)
September 16 - [available for signup](#)
September 20 - [available for signup](#)
September 27 - [available for signup](#)
October 4 - [available for signup](#)
October 11 - [available for signup](#)
October 18 - Nancy & Jim Wymer
October 25 - Peg & Bill Roberts

Altar Candles

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

Sunday Bulletins

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

Newsletter

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

SERVING THE LORD
IS NOT A WASTE OF TIME
BECAUSE NO TIME IS EVER
WASTED WHEN YOU
GIVE IT TO GOD.
TO SERVE GOD IS
a privilege!





September 2026



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

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Smile" God Loves You		1 Staff Meeting 10:00	2	3	4	5
<i>Pentecost 15</i> 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship 10:15	 Office Closed	Staff Meeting 10:00				
<i>Pentecost 16</i> 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Rally Day Worship 10:15		Staff Meeting 10:00				
Dana - vacation						
<i>Pentecost 17</i> 20	21	22 Staff Meeting 10:00	23	24	25	27
God Work Our Hands Worship 10:15 Church Council 11:30		 Elephant Appreciation Day	 OCTOBER Newsletter Deadline			
<i>Pentecost 18</i> 27	28	29	30			
 Worship 10:15 Baptism		Staff Meeting 10:00				

October						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-25, 2026,

