



APRIL
2024

The Acts of St. Lucas



The seal of St. Luke

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1: 37

ST. LUCAS CALLS PASTOR PAUL MYERS

On Sunday, March 10, at a specially called congregational meeting St. Lucas voted to issue a call to Pastor Paul Myers to serve as co-pastor with Pastor Billmeier until his retirement, and then become

solo pastor of St. Lucas. Pastor Paul and his wife, Denise (Dee), are pictured at right. Pastor Paul began service on Palm/Passion Sunday weekend. Pastor Paul



Pastor Paul & Dee Myers

will be the 8th pastor to serve St. Lucas in its long history. St. Lucas was founded on March 21, 1886 and has served the Lord for 138 years. (March 21 is also J.S. Bach and Jamie Dauel's birthdays). Welcome Pastor Paul and Dee!

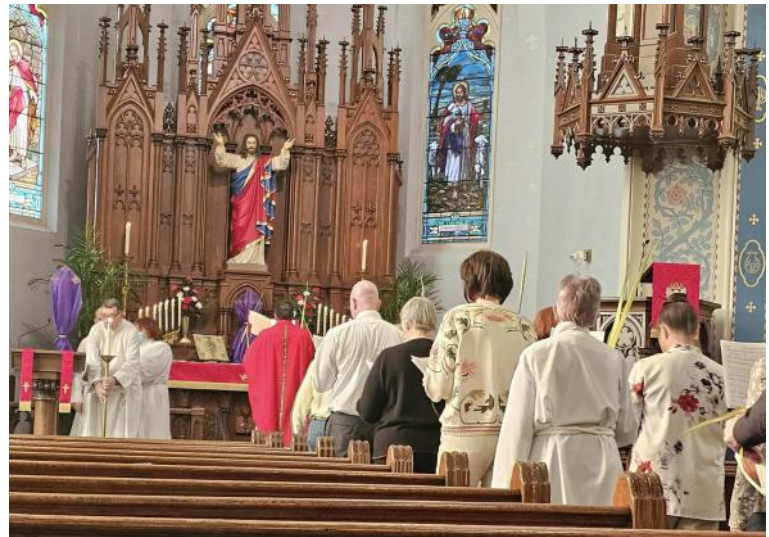
INSTALLATION OF PASTOR PAUL MYERS APRIL 22

Pastor Paul Myers will be officially installed as co-pastor of St. Lucas on Monday, April 22, at 6pm in the main sanctuary, followed by a reception to welcome Pr. Paul and his wife, Dee, to the St. Lucas community.

GUIDED HEALING MEDITATION Wednesday, April 10 at 9pm on our Facebook live stream led by Ed Kane. Be sure to join Ed for this powerful spiritual time!

BILLMEIER RETIREMENT RECOGNITION DAY PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 19 NOON

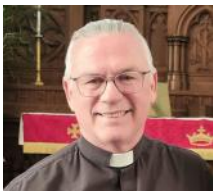
The Church Council has negotiated with Pastor Billmeier to extend his service until the end of June, so that there is a full three month overlap of the two pastorates for the sake of a smoother transition. **Pastor Billmeier's Retirement Recognition Celebration will still take place on May 19 at noon, as that has been the announced date for three years. Please mark your calendars for that date!**



PALM SUNDAY procession at the 10:30 service. For more Holy Week pictures see pp. 5 & 6

EVANGELISM SUNDAY IS COMING UP

April 14 will be dedicated to learning about and doing evangelism at our congregation. Be sure to be in church as we interview a few key people about their thoughts on evangelism at St. Lucas.



PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Paul Myers

Drinking from a firehose.

That's how I have decided to describe my first days here at St. Lucas. I am incredibly excited, mildly anxious, and more than a little overwhelmed by the wonderful ministry and amazing people I have encountered so far. Starting a new position in any work is a challenge, what with learning a new space, new people, and new procedures. And with all the new comes the fear of not being up to the challenge.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—

Philippians 4:6-7



The anxiety of transition is real. That's why the

Apostle Paul reminds his Philippian siblings that though we tend to be worriers, there is no need to let that take over our lives. This is something I am constantly reminding myself about, as well. When I remember these words, and take the time to heed them, I do find a sense of peace. And I don't think the Apostle is talking about some mysterious, life-altering peace, either. I think that peace in this instance may just be moving toward a quieter spirit.

My dad used to say to anyone who came over to visit or play some cards, "Sit down. Take a load off." In his own way, he was inviting them to pause, to take a break from the stresses of life to relax for a while. This intentional pause is peace. And we don't have to—or need to—understand how and why it works; we just need to feel it and abide in it. It is the peace of God, which surpasses understanding.

If transition or trouble, or just the everyday annoyances are causing you to be anxious, I invite you to take a breath, take a moment and just pray a simple prayer of thanks or for help in the moment. Just enough to allow God's Spirit to move in you for a little while. God's promise is that in it, God will provide the peace.

As for me, I promise to do my best to experience that with you as I pause from time to time to pray with and for you all in this time of transition. I will still be drinking from a firehose for a while, but it will be alright as long as we are walking together on this journey.

—*Pastor Paul.*



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

As we go to press with this edition the big St. Lucas rummage sale is underway. At left is a picture of the first day floor and customers. Business was booming! We are glad to offer this ministry of low cost goods for our neighbors. Proceeds from the sale go to the Women of the Church, who support various ministry projects through their treasury.

NEW THRIFT SHOP HOURS Starting Wed. April 17 the Thrift Shop will be open Wed. Thurs. & Fri. each week. Hours are the same; 9:30 to 11:30 am.

WELCA Starting April 16 the business meetings and bible Study will be changing to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The hours are the same; 9:30 Biz meeting and 10:00 Bible Study.

RAINBOW EQUALITY SEDER cosponsored by Equality Toledo **Sunday, April 21 at 2 pm** at Handmade Toledo (1717 Adams St, Toledo 43604: Join us for an afternoon celebrating our collective liberation. The Passover seder retells the story of the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. This Rainbow Equality Seder will follow the customs and order of a traditional Passover seder and will focus on chronicling our collective liberation as LGBTQ+ people, as Jews, as LGBTQ+ Jews, and others. We come together to commemorate our emancipation from oppression, to celebrate the freedoms that have been achieved, and to explore freedoms not yet gained, remembering that none of us are free until all of us are free. This event is free and open to all, regardless of faith, sexual orientation, and gender identity. *Flyer attached. Please make sure to RSVP by Monday, April 15 at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/equality-seder-2024>*

St Lucas Garden News

Here we Grow again

Tilling another row again

Finding the seeds to sow again

Takin' a chance on Spring



Last Saturday 16 cheerful, energetic young ladies from Alpha Xi Delta sorority helped Howard and Sarah Abts and your Garden Manager clean up the garden and mulch the beds to get ready for Spring planting.

They were taking part in the University of Toledo's annual Big Event, which provides the students of The University of Toledo with the opportunity to say "Thank You" to the residents of Toledo for their continued support throughout the years. The Big Event is the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, and has expanded to 110 other schools across the country.

In February your Garden Manager visited the Toledo GROWS Annual Seed Swap and picked up some interesting varieties for this year's garden. We are repeating last year's Adopt -a-Bed Project and will have information and sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Sign up for your chance to get your hands dirty in a good cause! Questions or suggestions? Reach me at 419-244-2243 or mbiscay@hotmail.com to get more details.

Verdantly, Mike Biscay



ACTS OF EDUCATION

by Sharon Schaefer, Sunday School Correspondent

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION: LOVE, LEARN, AND SERVE GOD

It's always a good time to be with someone: Listen to someone without interrupting them, and then show them the way to respond to what's in their hearts.

—John Lewis 1940-2020, Civil Rights Activist, Member of Congress, Author and Listener

Listening is hard! **Listening** is a learned skill! **Listening** is something we all need, being the listener and being listened to!

How do we learn how to listen? Everything I have read lately includes the word mentoring – being a mentor and having a mentor. If you are fortunate enough to be one or have one, you are one of the few for someone in our culture. There may be mentors in our lives but no one actually calls them mentors. Now if you have one, even if unnamed, that person can teach you how to listen. Here are a few high points of learning how to listen: When we get tired of listening, that is when we need to keep listening without saying anything at all. It is hard to be so involved in listening that we are not thinking about what we are going to say next. Shut off the need to think about what's next and continue listening. It is hard but required to not want to fill in every second with the sound of your own voice. Let me try that again with better words. Let silence be a part of a conversation. Have you noticed how sometimes people have solved your problem in their own way and not given you even the slightest chance to say what you have to say and maybe, hopefully, solve your own problem by being listened to? I call that the eight second time-out: we are not allowed, as the listener, to solve anybody's spoken problem without waiting for at least eight seconds while we think about what is happening in the conversation and giving a person a chance to express themselves.

I am sure we have found ourselves in all of the scenarios above, both as the listener and the listened to. Listening is a learned skill. If we find ourselves talking over other people, chances are we have more learning to do. It can be learned, though, and like everything else when there is a sincere need or a plan to become a better listener, we all can learn and it will make all of our lives better.

Some of the words that we both use at my house are “Give me a chance! Please listen for a minute.” I don't find that activity particularly harmful because apparently we both have a lot to say. Also, asserting your need to be listened to when you really need someone to be the listener is healthy for our minds. I have some people in my life who are lonely and spend a lot of time alone. Have you noticed, if you give those people a chance and let them talk, that they have a lot to say? Listening to ourselves is not that much fun, but being listened to is a gift that we receive from others.

—Sharon Schaefer

ST. LUCAS SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 10:15 in the gym. Our young people then walk through the tunnel to the main sanctuary for the Young People's Time at worship, after which they return to the gym for breakfast and a lesson. Kids age 5 to high school are welcome to come to Sunday School. For younger children there is a Babyland Nursery in the lower church that parents may use at their choice during any worship service. There are speakers in the lower church so that parents may continue to hear the service while in the nursery.

Holy Week at St. Lucas

Crown of Thorns on the Cross on Good Friday



Good Friday Tenebrae Service



One of the devotional stations on Maundy Thursday is a candle box for prayer intentions



EASTER VIGIL at St. Lucas included 7 baptisms! Above left Pastor Paul led the liturgy including a candle rite as we gradually went from dark to light. Above right: Pastor Paul with (from left) Isabel Sigarroa Mitchell, (baby) Zy'Mir Evans, Giselle Alexander, Carmello Sigarroa Stallworth, Kendal Alexander, Jr., Angelo Sigarroa Stallworth. Not pictured: Zy'Mir's father, Kavon Evans, who was also baptized. The couple with baby Zy'Mir are Luisa Sigarroa and Rahshon Stallworth, Angelo and Carmello's parents. 63 people attended Easter Vigil this year. Pastor Paul baptized Giselle, Carmello, Kendal and Angelo. Pastor Billmeier baptized Kavon, Isabel and Zy'Mir

EASTER SUNDAY 2024 10:30 SERVICE



Patrick Codden served as thurifer bearing the censer while leading the procession of the word (Scripture lessons).



Pastor Paul presiding at the Eucharist



Jamie Dael led the young people's time



Pastor Billmeier preached



Theresa Johnson, R.N.
Cindy's Corner Representative

Call 419-243-8189,
press 3

St. Lucas Cindy's Corner Ministries

*Café Noon Tue.-Fri.

*Outreach Noon Tue.-Fri.

*Kids' Closet & Babygate by appointment

* Food Pantry @ St. John's M & W 11-12:30

St. Lucas Cindy's Corner News by Joy Huener

Hallelujah! It is finally spring. More importantly, it is Easter, the most blessed time in the church calendar and in our spiritual growth in Jesus. Easter Sunday was March 31. Of course, we celebrated Palm Sunday and remembered Jesus on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday, when Jesus dies for everyone. We hope that everyone was able to attend these very important church events.

As some of you know, we have had issues with our dishwasher. The parts to repair the dishwasher are in Italy! We had to figure out what would be more cost effective, buying the dishwasher outright or leasing the dishwasher. The

church council will decide what is to be done. I know our volunteers and our WEP worker will be very happy to have the dishwasher back in the kitchen.

Lucas County Early Head Start will be coming to see our lunch group soon. They will be opening a site at the old St. James Church. Who is eligible?

1. Children ages birth to 3
2. Families with limited income
3. Children in foster care
4. Families experiencing homelessness
5. Children with delays or disabilities

This program can be home-based or at the center.

Why Early Head Start?

1. During the first 3 years of a child's life, the brain develops 700 connections per second
2. Children who attend Early Head Start, are more prepared for kindergarten
3. Early Head Start provides comprehensive services including child development, family support, medical, dental, and mental health.
4. Specially trained staff to work with infants, toddlers, and families

Anyone who could use this valuable resource, contact: 419-725-6176

The volunteer of the month is **Francesca Miller**. She is retired from the Wernet Center as their receptionist. She is in charge of all correspondence for the Thank You cards for the folks who gave Cindy's Corner donations. Anything we ask her to do, she does it without complaint. She always has a smile on her face and is so very pleasant! If you see her around, tell her how much you appreciate what she does for Cindy's Corner!

We held our annual Fish Fry on 3/22/24. It was a huge success. Cindy's Corner and the Kid's Kafé Program will share the \$738 proceeds! Everyone had a great time. The food was delicious, especially the fish! Great job to everyone who volunteered their time.

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-13

SERVANTS IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS

APRIL WORSHIP SERVANTS

4:00 Elder Harold Petoskey

9:00 Elder Kathy Carver

10:30

Lector Sarah Sigurdson

Elders Faith Wolfram

Jill Hojnacki

Sharon Schaefer

Georgia Steele

Head Ushers

Russ Wells

Pat Bair

Offering Ushers

Susan Lang

Deb LaJeunesse

Acolyte Savannah Scott

Camera Steve Seaton, Pat Wilson, Sarah Sigurdson

Healing Station Yvonne Reed

DARTBALL SEASON SCHEDULE

Apr. 1 vs 1st St. John #1

Apr. 15 vs Prince of Peace

Apr. 22 Banquet @ Messiah

If you would like to play on the team, please contact

Kevin Hejnicky at 567-395-4148.

CINDY'S CORNER EVENTS

April 10 Oak Street Health from 1-2pm. If you are interested in this new program, you are invited to join us

April 11 Tim Teggee from The Sight Center of North west Ohio will be coming in to discuss what the Sight Center can do for anyone with eye issues.

April 20 Oak Street Health will be here during the Children's lunch program (on Saturday) from 10:45am—1:00pm. Please come down and see the children at work.

April 29 Keith Carswell from Sign Language and Chess. Mr. Carswell wants to be able to teach Sign Language and Chess to anyone who desires to learn. Many people have family members with hearing loss.

APRIL THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Tue Apr 2 SET UP RUMMAGE SALE

Wed Apr 3 SET UP RUMMAGE SALE

Thu Apr 4 RUMMAGE SALE

Fri Apr 5 RUMMAGE SALE

Sat Apr 6 RUMMAGE SALE

Wed Apr 10 Closed

Thu Apr 11 Closed

Fri Apr 12 Closed

Wed Apr 17 Susan Lang

Sue Alley

Thu Apr 18 Deb Hurley

Henry

Fri Apr 19 Deb Hurley

Sally Wing

Wed Apr 24 Susan Lang

Sharon Stofan

Thu Apr 25 Sally Wing

Sue Alley

Fri Apr 26 Deb Hurley

Jan Hoffman

Subs are Jan Hoffman 419-740-2302 or Sally Wing 419-349-0981, or call Yvonne Reed 419-484-1433 or Deb Hurley 419-691-7321.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS:

ADOPT A GARDEN BED

We have a sign up sheet in the narthex to adopt one or several community garden beds for the growing season this year. We will get our plants from Toledo Grows on May 16-17. Or, to reserve a bed call 419-243-8189.

FISH FRY SUCCESS! So many people came together in fellowship! Proceeds were \$738.00 for the Sunday School and Cindy's Corner Ministries.

CINDY'S CORNER PANTRY in conjunction with St. Johns Lutheran, is located at St. John's, 708 S. Erie St. and open Mon & Wed. 11am- 12:30pm.



ST. LUCAS PRAYER LIST

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

GENERAL HEALTH

Keith Johnson, John Kern, Dave Jerman,
Beth Cousino, Barb Beaverson, Angel Pringle,
Lorraine Willoughby, Sharon Kampfer,
Neil Neukam, Pat Beaty, Sharon Stofan

VISITATION LIST (RARELY OUT)

Cheryl Ivy, Roger Druckemiller, Joyce Mason

ST. LUCAS THANKSGIVINGS

For the Resurrection of Jesus

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS We offer our sympathy, love, and prayers for Amy Herrick & Becki Kincaid at the death of Amy's father, Robert Herrick, on Monday, March 12. Services will be private. Please pray for Amy and Becki, EricaRae and their whole family.

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS We offer our sympathy, love and prayers for Carol Jimenez and her family at the death of Carol's son-in-law in Detroit.



Happy April Birthday

Say a prayer for each of these on their special day.

Pastor Billmeier	1
Gwendolyn Steele	1
Garry Adams	7
Melinda Musteric	8
Diane Porter	12
Yvonne Reed	13
Maddox Woody	13
John Mensing	15
Dawn Keeler	22
Ron Carver	25
Russ Wells	26



HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARY!

Say a prayer for each of these couples on their special day:

Larry and Karen Flowers	9
George and Debra Reis	9
Martin Billmeier & John Mensing	11

"I WORSHIP TODAY" COMMENTS MAR 16-17 SAT & 10:30 ALSO WED MAR 20

"We Love St. Lucas Church"

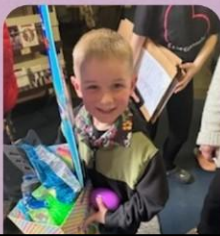
"Awesome Choir Anthem!!!"

"St. Lucas is a very welcoming church . My friend invited me to the healing service. She knows my needs and wanted me to benefit from it. I thank all who prayed for me."

EVANGELISM CORNER

St. Lucas Lutheran Church March 31, 2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL "HE IS REASON"

At Sunday School We had an Easter Egg Hunt, played games, kids won prizes and most importantly each child learned and expressed the true meaning of Easter. 25 Activity bags and 30 Easter Baskets were given out of which 19 were delivered to me by Katina Warner and donated by Raquel Helle. Thank you Raquel Helle, Katina Warner, Thank you to Sue White Johnson for the purple plastic eggs with a small stuffed lamb toy inside



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AS A PLACE WHERE EVANGELISM HAPPENS? THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS FORMED WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WE SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH OUR OUTREACH AT TIMES LIKE EASTER WE HOPE TO EXPAND THE REALM OF GOD AT ST. LUCAS BY ADDING FAMILIES TO OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL? ONE ANONYMOUS DONOR GAVE \$300 TO COVER THE COST OF THE EASTER BREAKFAST, SO THAT ALL THE PROCEEDS WENT TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND. WITHOUT THAT DONOR WE WOULD HAVE LOST MONEY ON THE EVENT.

Those who have been given a trust must prove that they are faithful. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

I Corinthians 4:1-2

THE CHALLENGE IS TO OUR FAITHFULNESS VS. OUR FEAR

A BRIEF HISTORY OF STEWARDSHIP RECENT AND LONG PAST AT ST. LUCAS



I have often remarked to folks when the subject of stewardship has come up, that St. Lucas has a history indicating to me, “They don’t give God junk.” One look at the sanctuary, the organ or the Sunday School building and you can see that the generations before us gave their best to God, because they knew God deserved their best. I don’t see where they cut corners in producing the buildings that serve as our center for mission these days. We have tried to be good and faithful stewards in that regard, too. We engaged an architect and paid extra to make sure the elevator addition matched our sanctuary building that is all about conveying the beauty and awesomeness of God, so that our building itself begins to introduce people to the God we worship. I still walk in the sanctuary and am awed at the God to whom it was dedicated, because the building itself transports us to a place where we contemplate the wonder and mystery of the God who has given us life and salvation. Today it hosts not just worship, but a vibrant healing ministry that invites all to come into the healing presence of God. The Sunday School, built when Pastor Slater was here, was state of the art for its day, constructed to accommodate the many children born during the baby boom. Today, the building has proven adaptable to a new mission of feeding and clothing our low income siblings, and welcoming strangers to a place where they will be loved to be strangers no more.

Those who have been given a trust must prove that they are faithful. The trust we have been given is **this faith community** and all that is a part of it: buildings, grounds, and most especially, the people who comprise it. If we succumb to fear over finances, we will betray our trust. If we try to save a dollar and give God less than the best we can, we will pay for it later in repairs and lost confidence, spiraling into decisions driven by fear and reactivity. God has always provided for this faith community just what it needs. How shall we repay God for all God’s benefits, starting with the good news we gather around and celebrate in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ?

When I first started at St. Lucas there was a tradition of yearly stewardship campaigns already in place. The congregation was not afraid to ask people to do their part in supporting the Lord’s work here. But I remember the council member who wrote the stewardship letter that year was a bit anxiety-influenced. That person wrote a letter that said, “It’s time for us all to step up and give, because we are running a deficit.” The invitation was to “give to a need,” rather than the “need to give in gratitude to God,” trusting that God will take care of us at home and at church. We now have a year-round stewardship emphasis, with monthly newsletter articles and temple talks in church. We also still ask people each fall to step out in faith and make a financial commitment to the work of Christ at St. Lucas for the coming year. It is a way we invite you to be faithful to the trust God has given you as a steward of God’s love at this faith community. ***Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.*** It’s a wonderful challenge to submit our purses, wallets and incomes to God, trusting that the God who loves us in Christ Jesus will take care of us, and use us to take care of the mission at St. Lucas.

—Pastor Billmeier

Boiler Fund Report

Original Loan Balance	45,000.00
Remaining Owed	33,266.91
Received this year	<u>774.00</u>
Remaining Owed	32,492.91

General Fund Report

FEB1 BALANCE	(4,397.45)
RECEIPTS	14,446.73
DISBURSEMENTS	(25,459.42)
FEB 29 BALANCE	(15,410.14)
BALANCE LAST YEAR	(2,677.85)



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 WALBRIDGE AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43609
419-243-8189

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

THE ACTS OF ST. LUCAS NEWSLETTER

Parish Staff

Martin E. Billmeier, Pastor
 Georgia Steele, Office Manager
 Jamie Dael, Organist
 Ron Lang, Choirmaster
 Steve Seaton, Custodian

Church Council

Jill Hojnacki, President; Brian Hochi, Vice-president; Russ Wells, Treasurer; Sharon Stofan, Secretary; Mike Biscay, Fritz Bloedow, Melissa Demski, David Jerman, John Kern, Diane Porter, LaVonda Rodgers, Steve Seaton, Russ Wells, Emmitt Williams, Lorraine Willoughby, Pastor Billmeier

Parish Office Information

Tuesday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Phone: **419-243-8189** Fax: 419-243-8180
 Secretary Email: stlucasooffice@gmail.com
 Pastor Email: pastorstlucas@gmail.com
 Cindy's Corner: 419-724-1908 stlucascindyscorner@gmail.com
 Website: www.stlucastoledo.org
 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StLucasLutheranChurch.

Northwest Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

621 Bright Road, Findlay, Ohio 45840
 1-419-423-3664
 Bishop: Rev. Daniel Beaudoin
 Website: www.nwos-elca.org



Worship & Sunday School Times

Saturdays: 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. Sept. to May

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and healing rite are offered at all services.

Mission and Vision

ST. LUCAS PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The people of St. Lucas Lutheran Church invite and welcome everyone to enter and feel God's presence.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. We believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior.
2. We embrace diversity and welcome all unconditionally.
3. We commit to live God's Word and share the Good News.
4. We strive for closer relationship with God and each other.
5. We demonstrate compassion and forgiveness through open hearts and open minds.

****Handicap Accessible Building****

***Elevator Next to Handicap Parking on Walbridge Ave.
 Please come dressed as you are...ALL ARE WELCOME***

AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME - adopted 1999

In accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ St. Lucas welcomes all. By this we mean that we extend the radical welcome of Jesus Christ to people of every age, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic level, mental health diagnosis, recovery status, education level, or previous religious experience to participate in the sacramental life and work of our congregation.