



DECEMBER
2023

The Acts of St. Lucas



The seal of St. Luke

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



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wed. Dec. 13 7pm Advent Compline

Wed. Dec. 20 7pm Advent Compline

Sun. Dec. 24 9 & 10:30am 4th Advent Worship

**Sun. Dec. 24 6:30pm Christmas Jazz Mass & Blue
Christmas Observance**

**Sun. Dec. 24 9pm Communion, Carols, Candlelight
Service**

Mon. Dec. 25 10am Lessons and Carols Service

Sun. Dec. 31 4pm New Year's Eve Evensong

ADVENT COMPLINE SERVICES at 7pm on Dec. 13 &
20 will be live cast on our Facebook page and will re-
place the 9pm Compline on those dates. .

JAZZ MASS/BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE 6:30pm CHRISTMAS EVE

Be sure to attend the early service on Christmas Eve. Emmitt Williams and Shandonna Flunder will lead our music for the Jazz Mass and Blue Christmas observance. Doors will open at 6:00 for preservice music with some original compositions. Blue Christmas is an observance for those who are missing departed loved ones during the holidays. You will be invited to light a candle to their memory as part of the ob-

servance. Jazz Mass also includes a candlelight rite as we hold candles in the darkened sanctuary while Shandonna sings "Mary Did You Know." Invite a friend who might benefit from this service.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE/ CHRISTMAS DAY/NEW YEAR'S EVE

We will need ushers, elders, acolytes, camera people, lights for the Jazz Mass, Candlelight Service, Lessons and Carols Service and New Year's Eve Evensong. Let Pastor know on the back of your *I Worship Today* card which services and which positions you are willing to fill or call the church office. Thanks all!

THE ST. LUCAS WELCA is asking for help delivering their shut-in Christmas gifts. There is a signup sheet and labeled gifts on the table in the narthex. If you will help, please sign out a gift and then let us know that you delivered it. Thanks!

ORDER SCRIP GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Order by 12/ 17 /23 to get them before Christmas. We have gift cards for restaurants, stores, gas stations. Proceeds from this program go to the boiler fund.

**NEED A CHRISTMAS BASKET? LET US KNOW ON
YOUR I WORSHIP TODAY CARD OR CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE.**

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We have received the following commitments estimating giving for 2024:

Cards Received this Week: 3 Total cards: 46

General Fund	\$80,084.00
Benevolence	3,976.00
Capital Improvement	6,606.00
Boiler Fund	<u>3,574.00</u>
Total	94,242.00

If you haven't turned in your estimate of giving for 2024, please do so. Extra cards on the narthex tables.



PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Martin E. Billmeier

PEACE ON EARTH

As we celebrate Christmas, we always hear on Christmas Eve the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Peace is hard to come by in our world. According to the Geneva Academy in the Middle East and North Africa alone there are over 45 armed conflicts taking place. In the rest of Africa there are over 35 conflicts taking place. In Asia there are more than 21. In Latin America there are 6. In Europe there are 7. The nature of these conflicts ranges from drug wars, terrorist insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, and civil wars.

When we hear the song of the angels this year, let us pray for peace, that the nations will make peace instead of war, that the nations will produce and export implements of peace, not weapons of war. "On earth peace among those whom [God] favors." The appearance of Jesus as Savior of the Nations means that God favors all of humanity and desires that we might know peace, live in peace and have peace deep in our hearts. Join me in making prayers for peace our Advent and Christian prayer intentions this year. *Dear Lord, you sent Jesus as the Prince of Peace. Grant that our world may know his peace this year. Bring an end to armed conflict on this earth. Protect those who are in danger because of war. Bring us to that time when we may enjoy peace among all humans, a just and equitable peace that favors none, and so favors all. In Jesus name. Amen.*



Peace: a picture worth a thousand words.

MIRROR IMAGE Bill Dennler sent us this mirror image of clouds on the water at sunset on Lake Leelanau, where the Dennlers live in Michigan. "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: The earth is full of thy riches." Ps. 104:24 KJV

THRIFT SHOP RECEIVING DONATIONS of winter clothing, household goods, and holiday items. Please drop them off during office hours Tue.-Fri. 9am to 3pm, or before or after church service. For office hours drop offs, please call to let us know you are coming 419-243-8189. **WE ESPECIALLY NEED WINTER COATS.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RUMMAGE SALE

What a success! Our proceeds totaled \$1029. Thanks to all who helped with the sorting, clerking, setting up and breaking down! Thanks to all who came in and shopped.

VISITING ELDER MINISTRY REVIVAL We want to start visiting Communion Elders to our shut-ins once per month. Speak to Pastor Billmeier for training.

2024 FLOWER CHART is now up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES now available on narthex tables for those who use them. If you don't see your name on a box and want envelopes, please let us know on your *I Worship Today* card.

NATIVITY FESTIVAL St. Paul's Lutheran concert *O Come Let Us Adore Him* with the Academy Brass on Sunday Dec 17 at 4pm. There are concert date and time cards on the table in the narthex.



WHO DAT????

Can you identify the couple standing in front of the St. Lucas altar, who celebrated their 48th anniversary in October? Hint: 4pm worshipers know them; one of them is on the St. Lucas Healing Team.

And who might this be sitting at the table with a mysterious gaze? Hint: She sits on the St. Lucas Church Council. EMAIL YOUR GUESSES TO pastorstlucas@gmail.com. Prize for first correct answers.



THANKS TO ALL who contributed to the Equality Toledo Food Pantry drive. We dropped off two abundant boxes of foodstuffs to Equality Toledo and they were very grateful to receive them.



Sunday School Meets
at 10:15 in the gym
every Sunday

ACTS OF EDUCATION

Cindy Kirk, Sunday School Superintendent
SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION: LOVE, LEARN, AND SERVE GOD



The month of November was very interesting for the children. They amaze me on how well they're learning how to cook. Also, on how well they are interacting with the people that come in for the lunch program.

They decided they wanted to serve the tables like a waitress. They did very well. I gave them a notepad with the menu for the day on it and they went from table to table. They also bussed the tables just like in a restaurant. Children for the month of November served 146 meals.

The children love using the dishwasher. They get all wet and the floor gets all wet! They're doing wonderful with selling things out of the thrift shop. They are born sales people. I cannot believe some of the things they have sold to people. They are very good at going in and straightening up the tables and making things look nice. They also make sure that before they leave everything is where it should be and put away.

—Cindy Kirk, Sunday School Superintendent



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNDAY SCHOOL?



**AMID THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS LEARN-
ING "SILENT NIGHT" AND TRY-
ING ON THEIR COSTUMES FOR
THE ADVENT IV SERVICE AT
10:30 ON DECEMBER 24
(THE SALE NETTED \$1026 FOR
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL)**



SCENES FROM THE WELCA ADVENT LUNCH Above left from left backward and around: Dino & Sally Ortiz, Deb Hurley, Sharon Olmstead, Hildegard Ruelke, Yvonne Reed, Sue Alley, Bob Alley, Susan Lang, Pastor Billmeier (hidden behind the Alleys are Jan Hoffman and Bea Heebsh, probably because Jan was talking so much she didn't hear a picture was being taken) 🤪 Above right: Dino and Sally flanked by their grandbaby. Below left: Bob and Sue Alley



SPECIAL VISITORS TO ST. LUCAS! On Wednesday, Dec. 6, Judy and Gerald Barthelemy drove over from Spencer, Ohio (south of Cleveland) to drop off winter coats, hats, gloves and blankets for our Thrift Shop. Judy grew up at St. Lucas. She saw the need for those items as published in the *Parish News* and made the trip to deliver the donations. Thanks Judy and Gerald! What a treat to see you!



Cindy Kirk, Director

St. Lucas Cindy's Corner Ministries

- *Cindy's Corner Café
- *Cindy's Corner Outreach
- *Lorraine's Kids' Closet

ST. LUCAS CINDY'S CORNER PAGE

I would like to explain to everyone how Cindy's corner is run. We are all volunteers including myself. I have some volunteers that have been with us for 15 years. Our volunteers are very dedicated and believe strongly in what they are doing,

Cindy's corner outreach program is a ministry of St. Lucas, so there are no overhead expenses that Cindy's Corner pays. Every penny that is donated to Cindy's corner goes out for services or purchasing of food for the program.

Cindy's corner outreach program, I believe, is the only program in Ohio or any other state that can say that. I am very proud of that. We do not get any state or federal dollars. We rely on individual donations. The Lions Club, Torrance Sound, Toledo Edison, Columbia Gas and the 180th Air National Guard have also donated to us.

I would like to wish everybody Merry Christmas and lots of love for believing in us here at Cindy's Corner Outreach Program.

God bless all of you. Without you there be no Cindy's Corner Outreach Program



Cindy and the crew dressed up for Halloween (above) At right the Sunday School kids used their Thanksgiving break to come and help serve the Thanksgiving meal day before the holiday.



A Typical Meal at the Café



Thanksgiving Meal at the Café



SERVANTS IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS

4:00 Elder Kate Gladieux

9:00 Elder Kathy Carver

10:30

Lector Susan Lang

Elders Patrick Codden,
John Kern
Dan Markley
Ken Sikorski

Head Ushers

LaVonda Rodgers,
Melinda Musteric

Offering Ushers

Ed & Fritz Bloedow

Acolyte Jill Hojnacki

Camera Steve Seaton, Pat Wilson, Sarah Sigurdson

Healing Station Pat Blair

CHRISTMAS EVE

DARTBALL SEASON SCHEDULE

Dec. 4 @ 1st St. John

Dec. 18 @ Prince of Peace

Jan. 15 vs St. Petri

Jan. 29 @ St. Mark

If you would like to play on the team, please contact
Kevin Hejnicky at 567-395-4148.

DECEMBER THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Tue. Dec 5 Sally Ortiz

Sue Alley

Wed. Dec 6 Susan Lang

Deb LaJeunesse

Thu. Dec 7 Deb Hurley

Sharon Olmstead

Tue. Dec 12 Deb Hurley

Sharon Olmstead

Wed. Dec 13 Susan Lang

Sue Alley

Thu. Dec 14 Deb Hurley

Sharon Olmstead

Tue. Dec 19 Lorraine Willoughby

Sharon Stofan

Wed. Dec 20 Susan Lang

Deb Hurley

Thu. Dec 21 Deb Hurley

Sharon Olmstead

Tue. Dec 26 CLOSED

Wed. Dec 27 CLOSED

Thur. Dec 28 CLOSED

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.

THANK YOU RECEIVED

The New Life AA Group wishes all a Merry Christmas. We also say thank you for allowing us to meet here and supporting our meetings. We really appreciate it.

God bless,

From All of Us

THREE GENERATIONS IN OUR THRIFT

SHOP We caught up with three generations in our Thrift Shop recently. On the right Sharon Olmstead with daughter Deb Hurley and granddaughter Keri Durco. Sharon and Deb work in the shop. We're working on Keri!



ST. LUCAS PRAYER LIST

**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE
PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

GENERAL HEALTH

Cindy Kirk, Keith Johnson,
John Kern, Kevin Olmstead,
Sally Wing, Lorraine Willoughby, Mike Biscay,
Dave Jerman, Angel Pringle, Carol Petoskey,
Savannah Scott

VISITATION LIST (RARELY OUT)

Cheryl Ivy, Roger Druckemiller, Joyce Mason,
Frank

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS for the family of Edmund Thomas Zajac, Jr. at his death on November 1. A memorial service was led by Pastor Billmeier at Newcomer Funeral Home on Heatherdowns on Nov. 15. Ed was a best friend cousin to Dawn Hetrick and nephew to Steve and Linda Tandler.

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS for Christy and Carla Fey-Steele at the death of Christy's uncle Joe DiCenso. Carla is Georgia Steele's daughter.

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS for Dave and Deb Hurley at the death of Dave's mother, Maria Cole, on Nov. 27.

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS for the family of Sandra Kulmatycki, who died on Nov. 21. Pastor Billmeier led services at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park on Dec. 1.

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS for the family of Arleen Sipes, who passed away Nov. 30. Pastor Billmeier conducted services at Bersticker-Scott Funeral Home on Dec. 6 with interment at Maplewood Cemetery.

THANK YOU to Charles Scott, Jr. and Bersticker-Scott Funeral Home for their donation of \$400 to the Sauerkraut Supper.

THANK YOU A big thank you to Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry in Waterville, OH for a donation to Cindy's Corner of 9 large turkeys and a case of pumpkin pie filling.

THANK YOU The **Garden** looks great! **Thank you** to Mike Biscay, Sue White Wendt, Keith Johnson, Pastor Howard Abts and Sarah Abts who have winterized the vegetable beds.



Happy December Birthday

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

George Pfaff	1
Carol Petoskey	10
Amy Woody	11
Sue White Wendt	16
Christy Fey-Steele	19
Bea Heebsh	24
Jesus	25
Neil Neukam	27
Chuck Dennison	27
Ana Dubois	29



HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY!

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

Pat & Karen Wilson	3
Ron & Susan Lang	29
Rev. Howard and Sarah Abts	29

SAUERKRAUT SUPPER: BIG THANK YOU to Carlos Lucio and the Cindy's Café kitchen crew and to Lorraine Willoughby, Sue Ally, Barb Beaverson and Theresa Johnson for help cooking the sauerkraut dinner. On Thursday, Angie went to the hospital with pneumonia and many people stepped up to help! Thanks to everyone else who helped as well.

SAUERKRAUT SUPPER PROCEEDS

Supper tickets sold	\$1193
Raffle at the Supper	\$ 171
Holiday Bazaar	\$ 132
Silent Auction	\$ 111
Bake Sale	\$ 74
Total Proceeds	\$1681 to WELCA Treasury

EVANGELISM CORNER by Sharon Schaefer



POWER – Body Mind and Spirit: Taking Care of Yourself, So You Can Take Care of Others

“How do you exercise the power you have,” asked Pastor Billmeier as part of his sermon on *Christ the King* Sunday last week.

. . . how do you exercise the power you have over your physical body?

. . . how do you exercise the power you have over your own health?

. . . how do you exercise the power you have to heal, if you have injured yourself in some way or someone has injured you?

**Can you take advantage of monthly healing services at St Lucas to address your own particular issues?
Healing Hour December 20 @ 4 Can you invite a friend to join you who might need healing?**

. . how do you exercise the power you have over your own mind to avoid drama that sometimes prevails in an organization?

My Mom used to say to us, “You’re not the only pebble on the beach.” Do you consider people around you and how what you do affects them?

. . . how do you keep from getting pulled into negative talk? How does it feel to have other people say about you, “She elevated everyone around her. He elevated everyone around him. They elevated everyone around them.”

St Lucas has Word in Season and other devotional books available in the narthex, with positive messages about life in this world and relevant Bible verses. You can also call the office and ask for one to be mailed to you.

As a physical reminder in this month of shorter days and longer nights until Winter Solstice arrives with longer and longer days, you could make a ball and wrap it in lights. It can be wadded up paper or a Styrofoam ball. Keep that light handy that represents your spirit this month, so that every time you see it you feel at peace. Wear a warm soft scarf, listen to beautiful music, attend some area concerts, take a walk when the sun shines, drive through any town in our area to see the lights. Enjoy the beauty of St Lucas with its lights and decorations.

Show kindness to neighbors and friends who may be grieving the loss of a parent, a spouse, a friend. Invite them to join you for church this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

EVANGELISM IS ABOUT WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY WHILE SHARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

- Do you take time to greet and listen to St. Lucas visitors, and to pray with them if it seems appropriate?
- Are you familiar with all of our ministries (worship, Sunday School, healing team, Cindy’s Corner, thrift shop, community garden), so that you could speak knowledgeably to a newcomer, who might benefit from one of those ministries?
- How are you about being a non-anxious presence when greeting a newcomer?
- Do you pray that God will give you opportunities to evangelize?



WE GIVE BACK TO GOD BECAUSE ALL GOOD GIFTS COME FROM GOD

We plan the way we want to live, but only God makes us able to live it.

The Message Proverbs 16:9

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows. NIV James 1:17*

Those of us on the Stewardship Committee, and we will be losing Jason Slough's talents at the end of the year, are so touched by the generosity of each one of us who turned in our Commitment card for 2024. THANK YOU!!

Looking at the Commitment that happened in November, our attitude has evolved into gratitude. These verses from Proverbs and James enable us to see stewardship from a different angle.

In the Proverbs verse, we are the ones who made the commitment to St Lucas and that is our plan about the way we want to live. That includes our promises to ourselves. Our plan will not happen under our own power because "only God makes us able to live it."

In the James verse, all of our good and perfect gifts are from above, which highlights our incomplete understanding of what the Father of heavenly lights is who does not change like shifting shadows. Not making assumptions about your attitude about your Commitment, do you think that every good and perfect gift that you receive is from above? Is that what motivated you to make the Commitment?

If you have found that you might be able to make another Commitment and sign up for membership on the Stewardship Committee, please let Pastor Billmeier know. We have a Committee which accomplishes its work with the help of all of its members. Our Committee will not be the same without Jason, but it will be wonderful to have you as part of it. We have fairly short Zoom meetings and we do get a lot done in a short period of time, beginning in June through the end of the year, a hiatus till the next June, and again work for several months.

—Sharon Schaefer, Stewardship Committee



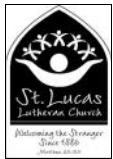
Pastor's Summer Appeal

Final Total **38,586.00**

THANKS TO ALL who gave to the Pastor's Summer Appeal. We had a record-setting response to the appeal, which has helped us offset what would be an even deeper deficit in the general fund. Thanks be to God!

General Fund Report

OCT 1 BALANCE	(31,919.68)
RECEIPTS	17,305.56
DISBURSEMENTS	(22,301.23)
OCT 31 BALANCE	(36,915.35)
BALANCE LAST YEAR	(13,930.39)



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

Brian Hoch, President; Jill Hojnacki, Vice-president; Jason Slough, Treasurer; Sharon Stofan, Secretary; Mike Biscay, Fritz Bloedow, David Jerman, John Kern, Cindy Kirk, Diane Porter, LaVonda Rodgers, Steve Seaton, 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: 10:00 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.