



The Acts of St. Lucas

JANUARY
2026



The seal of St. Luke

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

WINTER FEAST OF ABUNDANCE

Was a wonderful success!! Over 220 people attended!



Feast of Abundance thank you

I just wanted to take a moment to thank my co chair Theresa , the SOLI committee members, and their teams for putting together an amazing event!. There is some confusion in the number attended but it was over 200 and we had food to spare. Outreach, Evangelism, Cindy's Corner Cafe/ Food Pantry, WECLA, the Dart Ball Team and congregation members all contributed to a great outcome! We made a goal of matching the SOLI Grant so we could share our abundance with our neighbors. I do not have the final numbers but know we met it!. We had 45 children that had a great time crafting and shopping. We prayed before each committee meeting to share our abundance with courage, creativity and joy. I believe we met that goal also! I am grateful! -Diane Porter

SOLI
Stewardship of Life Institute



Pastoral Acts

Pastor Paul D. Myers III

Matt. 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Rest For Your Souls

This past year has been a year of listening in the Northwest Ohio Synod. It included listening to the voices in the congregations and our communities, listening to our own souls, and listening to God through prayer and scripture reading. The goal of listening is not only to hear the words, but to understand the hearts of those to whom we listen.

As we listen these days, we hear a constant theme (at least in my listening): we are scared; we are worried; we are tired. People are worn out by the stress of not knowing what the future holds. Will we be at war soon? Will we lose our healthcare? Will we be able to be our true selves in public?

This is what Matthew is addressing in this wonderful passage from chapter 11. Jesus knows how hard life is; he knows our worries and fears. And Jesus offers us the great exchange: "come to me with your burdens; lay them down. Take my yoke instead because it's easier." What is the yoke of Jesus? Simply put, it is the joining with Jesus in life's struggles. When we yoke with Jesus, we have all the strength and power of God at our disposal to work through any problem or challenge. In fact, with the power of Jesus beside us, we are able to release our need to have all the solutions or to "muscle through" when hard times come.

You will find rest for your souls when you yoke with Jesus because Jesus brings all the power of the resurrection to your struggle. What a comfort it is to rest in the knowledge that in the midst of all our worry and hardship, God is walking with us to carry all of them. All we need to do is bring our burdens to God and feel that weight lifting off our souls. Prayer, worship, scripture, and serving our neighbor all bring the presence and rest of Jesus into our souls.

Be at rest as you start this new year, and be refreshed and energized by God's presence to move into the kingdom of the beloved community.

Peace be with you on your journey.



by Deb Reis

Saturday, Jan. 17th Hour of Reflection will be in the main sanctuary from 3:00-3:45. Join the St. Lucas healing team for this powerful time of healing. Come any time during the hour and stay as long as you like during the hour.

Healing for the New Year

As we turn the page to a new year, we remember that Christian healing is more than a skill set; it is a path. Those who feel called to this work know it asks for time, humility, and perseverance. It is study and practice. It is mentoring and accountability. It is learning to offer a steady, prayerful **presence**, becoming a conduit for God's love so the Holy Spirit may bring comfort, peace, and, in God's timing, healing.

New schedule for 2026: Hour of Reflection

To better serve our parish and neighbors, we are moving the **monthly Hour of Reflection** to the **third Saturday at 3:00 pm**, immediately before the **4:00 pm church service**.

We hope this adjustment will:

- Make participation easier for those who also attend the 4 pm healing service, and
-
- Provide an earlier time that is more accessible to our wider community.
-

Please join us for quiet prayer, reflection time, and intercession for those in need of healing. Come as you are; stay for the 4:00 pm service if you wish.

May the Lord strengthen this ministry in the year ahead, deepen our compassion, and make our parish a place where the weary find rest, the anxious find calm, and all who seek God's presence are welcomed in love.

Blessings,

Deb



A Beacon of Light-Cindy's Corner Food Pantry



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Saint John's and St. Lucas Lutheran Church for your unwavering commitment to the mission of Cindy's Corner. This program was created to be a beacon of light in the lives of those facing difficult times, and because of your dedication, that light continues to shine brightly.

With your collective help, we were able to provide several families with essential meals, coats, gloves, hats, socks, hygiene products, and even household tools like can openers. Beyond the necessities, you helped bring joy to children and families through monetary donations and gifts of toys, candy, and snacks.

We would like to offer a special "Thank You" to the following individuals whose prayers, love, and support made this possible:

Our Dedicated Supporters:

Church Supporters: Jill Hojnacki, Pam and Brian Hoch, Bill Huepenbecker, Adam McIntosh, and Judy Pfaffenberger.

Community Partners: Tatum and the 180th Fighter Wing (Toys), Hannah and Susie Coats (Socks), and Randy and The Storehouse.

Volunteers & Donors: Joan Cureton, Cassandra Barnhill, Diamond Flunder, Adrian Luvane, David Richards, and Richard Lewinski.

Your efforts have proven that when we come together, we can provide more than just physical goods—we provide hope and a sense of community. Thank you for continuing a mission that means so much to all of us.

God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Lavonda Rogers, Emmitt Williams, and Shandonna Hamilton-Flunder



**CINDY'S CORNER FOOD
PANTRY
708 SOUTH ERIE
TOLEDO, OHIO
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY
11AM-12:30PM**



**In Honor of Cindy Kirk & Her Mission to Assure Nutrition for all
who needs. Cindy's Corner Food Pantry, St.Lucas and St.Johns
Lutheran Church worked together to feed 40 to 50 Families with
a FULL THANKSGIVING FEAST**

St. Lucas Lutheran Outreach Ministry

Matthew 25:31-40

St. Lucas Outreach Ministry Approximate Info/Statistics for December 2025:

During December 2025, an average of approximately 90 lunches per day were served in the **Cindy's Corner Café** on open days. For many in our neighborhood, the Café has long been an important part in helping to manage their food security. However, in light of recent financial and supply instability, the Café has become even more important as a source for those in need to get a prepared/wholesome meal. Every donation (monetary, food items, donations of time/talents, etc.) made to the St. Lucas Outreach Ministry goes directly to help serve our guests. Thank you!

Outreach Ministry Contact Info:

419-243-8189 – Ext. #3
stlucasoutreach@gmail.com

Outreach Ministry General Request List:

The following items are being requested to help our guests-Thank you:

*Gently used coats – there is a critical need for student size coats (Pre-K to High School/ Adult ages).

*Socks – there is a critical need for socks of all sizes.

*Gently used tennis/sport/ athletic shoes – Adult sizes. Refurbishing & **fundraising**.

*Laundry soap.

*Canned meat: Chicken, beef, and/or pork – Any/all size cans are welcome.

*Aluminum cans (empty) for recycling & **fundraising**.

*Hygiene items – soap for bathing, shampoo, adult diapers, feminine products, deodorant, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, wipes, etc.

*Baby/Infant/Toddler items for Baby Gate (diapers – all sizes, wipes, anti-diaper- rash creams, etc.).

*Blankets of all sizes – critical need.

*Gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, etc. – critical need.

Outreach Ministry Events/Happenings/Info:

***FREE LAUNDROMAT DAY – Clean Duds!** Do you (or someone you know) need a place to get your clothes washed? How does getting them clean for for FREE sound? If this sounds like a great idea, please consider taking the clothes you would like to have washed (please bring your own laundry soap) to the Reynolds Laundromat, 521 South Reynolds Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615 on the **third Thursday of each month from 3:00pm to 7:00pm**. Wash your clothes for FREE...yep, you read that correctly, **FOR FREE!** **This month's free Laundry day is Thursday, January 15, 2026** from 3-7pm! **Please share this information!**



The St. Lucas Outreach Ministry would like to wish everyone a joyous and happy 2026! Thank you to everyone for your donations of time, talent, and treasure during the past year!

Other St. Lucas Lutheran Outreach Ministry News

Feast of Abundance - December 13, 2025

What a joyous event the **Feast of Abundance** was on December 13, 2025! It was hard to recognize that our guests were standing, sitting, eating, visiting, and enjoying each other in the Gymnasium, Thrift Shop, and first floor of the Sunday School Building – everything was decorated so beautifully in the spirit of the season! The food was outstanding and served perfectly; the atmosphere was welcoming for ALL ages from the very young to elementary students to teens to adults! The **Thrift Shop** was decked out with all kinds of gifts for the young people to choose for their family members and the second floor **Arts & Crafts Room** was full of activities for young artists to create whatever they desired to share with their families. This event was a joint effort by the Evangelism Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Sunday School, Kitchen Workers, Food Pantry (Cindy's Corner Food Pantry at St. John's), Dart Ball Team, and a whole group of willing & smiling volunteers! It was underwritten by a generous \$1,000 grant from the **Stewardship of Life Institute (SOLI)** and matching funds (in excess of \$1,000) from members and friends of St. Lucas. Congratulations to Melissa Demski, Shandonna Flunder, Deb Hurley, Theresa Johnson, Pastor Paul Myers, Diane Porter, LaVonda Rodgers, Russ Wells, Emmitt Williams, and all of the great volunteers for coming together to make this a wonderful occasion for St. Lucas and the church neighborhood! Please enjoy the pictures below!



Feast of Abundance - December 13, 2025 - Thank you! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

DARTBALL NEWS



St Lucas Dart ball team. Still in first place and having fun!

From left to right. Rob, Kevin, Glenn, Brenda, Tami, Santa Claus, Marianne, Wally, Mike And Matt. Russ was no were to be found when Santa arrived. Marty is missing from photo, on vacation.



Upcoming games:

Mon. January 19	Prince of Peace @ St. Lucas
Mon. February 2	Messiah @ St. Lucas
Mon. February 16	1st. St. John #2@ St. Lucas

NEW YEARS EVE AT ST. LUCAS

A lovely Evensong Service at St. Lucas was had on New Years Eve. Then following the service, we celebrated with wonderful hors d'oeuvres, and desserts! Pastor Paul led the toast to the new year. A great start to 2026! Thanks to Sharon Stofan, Diane Porter, and John Mensing for planning and making it special!



JANUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

4:00 Elder Steve Seaton

9:00 Elder Kathy Carver

10:30 Elders Faith Wolfram, Patrick Codden

Lector Sarah Sigurdson

Head Ushers Russ Wells, LaVonda Rodgers

Offering Ushers Pat Bair, Pam Hoch

Acolyte Jill Hojnacki

Camera Steve Seaton, Gary Stofan, Sarah Sigurdson

Healing Station Annette Mason

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

4:00 Elder Harold Petoskey

9:00 Elder Sharon Stofan

10:30 Elders Jill Hojnacki, John Kern

Lector Susan Lang

Head Ushers Deb LaJeunesse,

Offering Ushers Kelly Curtin, Sally Ortiz

Acolyte Faith Wolfram

Camera Steve Seaton, Pat Wilson, Sarah Sigurdson

Healing Station Annette Mason

JANUARY THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Wed Jan 07 Susan Lang, Lorraine Willoughby

Thur Jan 08 Deb Hurley, Amy Speelman

Fri Jan 09 Deb Hurley, Tanya Cason

Wed Jan 14 Deb Hurley, Hildegard Ruelke

Thur Jan 15 Deb Hurley, Amy Speelman

Fri Jan 16 Deb Hurley, Tanya Cason

Wed Jan 21 Susan Lang, Sharon Olmstead

Thur Jan 22 Deb Hurley, Amy Speelman

Fri Jan 23 Deb Hurley, Tanya Cason

Wed Jan 28 Susan Lang, Hildegard Ruelke

Thur Jan 29 Deb Hurley, Amy Speelman

Fri Jan 30 Deb Hurley, Tanya Cason

Subs are Jan Hoffman 419-740-2302 or call Deb Hurley 419-409-9967.

JANUARY MEETINGS

Jan 06 @ 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

Jan 13 @ 10:00 am Outreach Board Meeting

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Jan 20 @ 10:00 am WELCA, BUC 6:30 pm

Jan 21 @ 2:00 pm Healing Board Meeting

Jan 27 @ Evangelism Meeting 6:00 pm (zoom)

DARTBALL SCHEDULE

Monday January 5

St. Petri @ St. Lucas

Monday January 19

Prince of Peace @ St. Lucas

Contact Russ Wells

419-480-7638

Wednesday Evening Devotion Schedule

9pm

January 07 Sharon Stofan (guided meditation)

January 14 Ed Kane

January 21 Jamie Dauel

January 28 Su Opansky



ST. LUCAS PRAYER LIST
PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Hospitalized

Recovering from Surgery

GENERAL HEALTH

Keith Johnson, John Kern, Dave Jerman, Beth Cousino, Lorraine Willoughby, Angie Basilius, Doris Banks, Kathy Jackowski, Ken Sikorski, Sharon Stofan, Pat Beaty, Anna Ponce, Angel Pringle, Barb Beaverson, Crystal, Tina, Robert Dauel Sr. Suzy Ray, Bob Alley, Jessica Wilson, Becky Herbert, Paul Schnapp, Butch Ottney

VISITATION LIST (RARELY OUT)

Cheryl Ivy, Roger Druckemiller, Joyce Mason



Hour of Reflection Schedule

Every third Saturday of the month in the sanctuary

From 3:00-3:45 pm

Sat Jan 24

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." – Psalm 147:3



**Happy January
Birthday**

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

Bob Ritter	6
Gannon Woody	7
Jeff Windsor	8
Su Opansky	9
Craig Lammers	11
Pastor Paul	17
Shirley Yager	17
Karen Wilson	17
Rick Charchol	19
Melissa Demski	29
Lori Strang	30



**HAPPY NOVEMBER
ANNIVERSARY!**

Juan & Christal Perez 16

ARE WE MISSING YOUR BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY IN THE ACTS?

Please inform the church office or drop us
a note on your "I Worship Today" card.

Stewardship

⁶ Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸ But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste?" ⁹ For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."—**Matthew 26:6-13**

A New Struggle with Need by Joel Vande Werken, Grand Rapids, Michigan

These are common situations: Families living paycheck to paycheck. Single [parents] trying to stretch their resources farther and farther. Homeless [people] on street corners holding signs that say, "Will work for food." Children with swollen bellies because they don't have food.

In place of the rich provision given by God in Eden, we now find poverty and material need. Sometimes poverty is the result of injustice and oppression. Other times it stems from bad choices made by people in need. Still other times it comes from circumstances beyond people's control: injury, disability, or corporate downsizing.

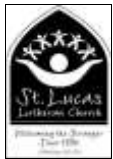
As societies, we struggle to know how to respond to inequality. We assign blame, often in simplistic ways.

Jesus' words in Matthew 26 about the poor have sometimes been used as an excuse to avoid helping people in need. But he was simply describing the brokenness in which we live. He also taught that in caring for needy people on his behalf, we will serve Jesus himself (Matthew 25:37-40). The woman who anointed Jesus was weak and broken. He protected her dignity and honored her struggle.

The poor are with us. Perhaps in this new year our love for Jesus will yield a new willingness to care for the weak and oppressed.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you left heaven to become poor for our sake. May we also be willing to enter the struggles of the poor in our midst and to serve them with the riches of the gospel. Amen.



St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church
745 Walbridge Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43609
419-243-8189

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The Acts of St. Lucas Newsletter

Parish Staff

Paul D. Myers III, Pastor
Annette Mason, Office Manager
Jamie Dael, Organist
Ron Lang, Choirmaster
Steve Seaton, Custodian
Melissa Demski, Kitchen Manager

Church Council

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

Parish Office Information

Tuesday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Phone: **419-243-8189**

Secretary Email: stlucasooffice@gmail.com

Pastor Myers Email: pastorpaulstlucas@gmail.com

St. Lucas Outreach: 419-243-8189 EXT.103 stlucasoutreach@gmail.com

Website: www.stlucastoledo.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StLucasLutheranChurch.

YouTube: [YouTube@stlucaslutherantole](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCstlucaslutherantole)

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 - 2025

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