



JANUARY  
2025

# The Acts of St. Lucas



The seal of St. Luke

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



**NEW SPIRITUAL HEALING CLASSES** are coming next year. Please contact the church office for details.

Even if you are only interested in personal spiritual growth, these classes will help you learn more about God's ability to heal us.

## **Youth Summer Mission Trip**

We are registered to visit the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana in July, 2025 to learn about the Native American culture and to do service projects with them.

There will be 4 students and 2 adults heading out to engage this meaningful ministry. The cost of the trip will be \$1,877 per person, not including travel. Please consider supporting our youth as they learn to share the love of Christ through service

## **New Wednesday Evening Devotion Schedule**

Beginning Jan 1, 2025, changes are coming to St. Lucas Facebook livestream. Instead of the 3 nights per week, we are consolidating all our efforts into 1 Wednesday evening 9:00 devotion per week. The first Wednesday of each month will be a Spiritual Guided Imagery Healing Meditation, led by members of the Healing Team: Jeannie Dennler, Ed Kane, Deb Reis & Sharon Stofan.

Other Wednesdays of the month, the people who are now livestreaming in the evening, Ed Kane, Su Opanski, & Steve Seaton, will be joined by some familiar faces: Martin Billmeier (and John?), Jamie Dael (and piano?), and Georgia Steele (and Oscar?), with more possible guests to come. The new format will add interest and diversity. Please join us!



# PASTORAL ACTS

*Pastor Paul D. Myers III*

Blessings in this new year!

First, I want to thank everyone for all the gifts, cards, and invitations to your celebrations this holiday season. It is such a blessing to know that I am welcome as part of the St. Lucas family. It's always challenging coming to a new congregation and learning to fit in; and you all have made it so easy to start the integration process.

As we move into a new calendar year, we can know that we are blessed by the God of inclusion, the God who always welcomes us into whatever new adventure into which we are called. Here at St. Lucas, we have a culture of welcome. Our lives are molded by the love of Jesus, who always welcomes the stranger and lifts up the lowly.

We have ministries that meet the needs of the unhoused, those who have no other advocates, and those who just need a fresh meal. We have a vibrant music ministry. We have opportunities for young people to learn how to live a life of gratitude and service. We offer our space for AA meetings, major life celebrations, and community work. All of these things shine the light of Christ into a world in need.

This is what I call being church! We obey the call of Jesus to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor—Luke 4:18-19. Jesus named this about himself, but he also named it for us as his followers.

I pray that in this new year, you will continue to enthusiastically embrace this joy and calling to be Christ for the world. And I pray God's blessings on all of you in this coming year in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, God almighty.

Peace be with you on your journey.

Pastor Paul.

## DEVOTIONS ON FACEBOOK

We need volunteers for noon devotions on Tue, Wed., and Fri. They don't have to be complicated, just a reading and prayer. Training is available, and you will be blessed as you bless others with simple bible or devotional readings and prayer. **This in an integral part of our ministry together as we reach out to the world at large with the love of Christ. Please consider joining us!**

**ST. LUCAS YOUTUBE CHANNEL & WORSHIP LIVE STREAMING** We now have our own YouTube account: **YouTube@stlucaslutherantoledo**. Google it, look for our logo & subscribe! Like it...often! 9 & 10:30 will be livestreamed on YouTube, and posted to Facebook once 10:30 worship has ended. **Saturday 4pm worship will only be live streamed on Facebook.**

## Power Lines and Paying Attention

We have all seen downed power lines. It is hard to know what to do if one of those comes in contact with your car without some pre-study of your options. If your car ever comes in contact with a power line, here is what to do:

If you can't move the car away from the power line safely, stay inside the car and call 911. Wait for electrical utility workers and warn people who might want to help you to keep 30 feet away from your car.

If you are in such danger that you have to get out of your car, without touching your car and the ground at the same time, jump clear of the car, land with your feet together, keeping your feet on the ground at all times, shuffle your feet until you are at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.

## Information thanks to First Energy

## ST. LUCAS SNOW CLOSING POLICIES

**Per church policy, worship services and any other St. Lucas activities will be cancelled if Lucas County is at a Level 2 snow emergency.**

**St. Lucas outreach and the Thrift Shop will close if Toledo Public Schools have cancelled classes due to weather.**

**NEW SPIRITUAL HEALING CLASSES** begin the end of February. Please contact the church office for details. Even if you are only interested in personal spiritual growth, these classes will help you learn more about God's ability to heal us. St. Lucas members receive a discount.

## SHARE YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA: SNAPCHAT, INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, TWITTER

Please share your worship experience via social media. Get the word out that you value your faith community and faith in God. You are welcome to use your cell phone or tablet to share our shared worship experience with others. Sharing your faith in real-time is cool. Phone calls are not. Texting is fine. Check-in on Facebook. Take selfies. Share pictures of the services and this beautiful sanctuary on our Facebook page. Tell your friends and family you are here. Invite them to join you. Post about your experience on social media. Take videos and share them freely, but **please don't take pictures/videos of children** and be careful not to disrupt the service. Check us out on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StLucasLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/StLucasLutheranChurch)

**CINDY'S CORNER SEEKING DONATIONS** of personal Hygiene items for our visitors. Items include:

Disposable razors, Toilet paper, Soap/shampoo/hand sanitizer, Toothbrush/toothpaste, and Feminine products. Donations can be dropped off at the church during normal hours or in the empty tub under the narthex tables at worship services.





# ACTS OF EDUCATION

by Sharon Schaefer, Sunday School Correspondent

*SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION: LOVE, LEARN, AND SERVE GOD*

## Celebrating Martin Luther King Day

The Associated Press reported in 2024 that there is a museum in Williamsburg VA that has restored the nation's oldest surviving schoolhouse. the Bray School for Black children, built in the 1760s. In school, the mostly enslaved students learned to follow a curriculum that justified slavery. The school rationalized slavery within a religious framework and encouraged children to accept their fates as God's plan.

In the mid 1900s, almost 300 years after the Bray School for Black children was built, and 200 years after the Civil War, Martin Luther King led marches about voting rights, desegregation and labor rights. In 1963, his famous "I Have a Dream" speech was given at the March on Washington attended by more than 200,000 people of all races. At 35 years of age, on October 14, 1964, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for the work he had done to combat racial inequality using peaceful means of resistance.

On 1/20/86, Martin Luther King Jr. day, or as I refer to it MLK Day, was observed for the first time.

On 1/27/2000, MLK Day was observed in all 50 states.

This year MLK Day is January 20, 2025.

A few quotes from the Dream speech.

"Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God's children.

Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice."



**ST. LUCAS SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets on Sundays at 10 in the gym for breakfast . 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 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.

# St. Lucas' Life in Photos This Month







## St. Lucas Outreach News

We are in dire need of dog and cat food. We have a number of our underprivileged community who have dogs/ cats. These animals provide comfort and security not to mention unconditional love. They often give their pets their own food, which is dangerous for both the person and the animal.

We are asking for donations of large bags of dog/cat food and then we will fill gallon bags of dog/cat food and pass them out every month. These animals are also God's creatures and He loves them also.

# SERVANTS IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS

## JANUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

**4:00 Elder** Harold Petoskey

**9:00 Elder** Pat Wilson

**10:30**

**Lector** Kelly Curtin

**Elders** Faith Wolfram, Patrick Codden, LaVonda Rodgers

### Head Ushers

Russ Wells

Pat Bair

### Offering Ushers

Susan Lang

Deb LaJeunesse

**Acolyte** Jill Hojnacki

**Camera** Steve Seaton. Gary Stofan, Sarah Sigurdson

**Healing Station** Annette Mason

## JANUARY THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Wed. Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 Susan Lang

Sue Alley

Thur. Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 Deb Hurley,  
Amy Speelman

Fri. Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 Deb Hurley,  
Tonya Cason

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

**WELCA Meeting Tues. Jan. 21** Meeting at 9:30  
am. Bible Study will follow with Pastor Myers.

## JANUARY MEETINGS

Jan 9 @ 6:30 via Zoom Safety Comm.

Jan 14 @ 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Jan 15 @4:00 pm Healing Service in Sanctuary

Jan 21@ 9:30 am WELCA meet & Bible Study at 10 am

Jan 21 @ 6:30 BUC

Jan 22 @ 2:00 pm Healing Board Meeting

Jan 28 @6:00 pm Evangelism Committee

## DARTBALL SCHEDULE

All games start at 7:30

Monday 1/13 St. Petri @ St. Lucas

Monday 1/27 St. Lucas @ St. Mark

Call 419-243-8189, press 3  
St. Lucas Outreach 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 PRAYER LIST**  
**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**KINGSTON IN SYLVANIA:**

Kathleen Jones

**Recovering at home:**

**Angie Basilius, Steve Hudson**

**Under Hospice Care: Bob Storer**

**GENERAL HEALTH**

Keith Johnson, John Kern, Dave Jerman, Barb Beaverson, Beth Cousino, Lorraine Willoughby,

Sharon Kampfer, Kathy Jackowski, Sharon Stofan, Anna Ponce, Angel Pringle, Ariana Wahl, Dan Markley, Ken Sikorski, Serenity Padgett (pastor Paul's niece), Patrick Codden, Doris Banks, George Pfaff, Crystal, Tonya, Tina, Suzy Ray

**VISITATION LIST (RARELY OUT)**

Cheryl Ivy, Roger Druckemiller, Joyce Mason, Gary Shope

**ST. LUCAS THANKSGIVINGS**

*We give you thanks, O Lord, for your gifts of family, friends, and loved ones with whom we can share our lives. Help us to expand that group daily.*

*Amen.*

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Have arrived!! Please remember to pick yours up in the narthex, before or after church.



**Happy January Birthday**

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

Bob Ritter	6
Gannon Woody	7
Jeremiyah Flowers	8
Jeff Windsor	8
Su Opansky	9
Craig Lammers	11
Jason Slough	14
Shirley Yager	17
Karen Wilson	17
Pastor Paul Myers	17
Gary Shope	18
Rick Charchol	19
Pastor Lori Strang	30



**HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARY!**

Juan & Christa Perez	16
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**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.**

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

## ST. LUCAS HEALING MINISTRY NEWS



**3RD WEDNESDAY HOUR OF HEALING PRAYER** January 15 from 4-5pm in the main sanctuary. 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.

### **Empowered to Heal: Building a Foundation in Prayer, Touch, and Anointing** by Debra Reis

Are you ready to deepen your understanding of healing in the Christian faith and share Christ's healing touch with others? In 2025, the **Foundations of Spiritual Healing and Anointing** course will be available to guide you on this transformative journey.

This 16-hour course offers a rich exploration of the history of healing within Christianity, blending biblical teachings with practical experiences. You'll have the opportunity to engage in the ancient practice of laying-on of hands, delve into the significance of anointing in our Judeo-Christian tradition, and learn about nine essential oils historically associated with Jesus' time—oils that carry profound spiritual and physical healing properties.

#### **What You'll Experience in the Class:**

- **The History of Christian Healing:** Discover how healing ministry has been woven into the fabric of our faith from the early Church to modern times.
- **Anointing with Healing Oils:** Learn about the oils mentioned in Scripture and their use in blessing and healing.
- **The Power of Prayer and Belief:** Explore how these pillars of faith work in harmony with spiritual healing practices.
- **Developing a Healing Presence:** Cultivate the peaceful and prayerful mindset needed to be a vessel of God's healing.

**Guided Meditations:** Deepen your connection to the Divine through meditations that enrich your healing practice. Whether you are looking to enrich your spiritual journey or feel called to establish a healing ministry in your church or practice, this course provides a strong foundation for embracing the healing power of God's love.

Let this be the year you say "yes" to the call of healing ministry and experience the profound joy of being an instrument of God's grace.

#### **2025 Enrollment Starting Now!**

**Location:** St. Lucas Lutheran Church, 745 Walbridge Ave, Toledo, OH 43609

\*\*\*Call St. Lucas Office at 419-243-8189 or visit the website: [www.ishahealing.com](http://www.ishahealing.com)

**Dates:** Two consecutive Fridays, February 28th and March 7th, 2025.

**Cost:** \$375.00 (includes Student Notebook) Continuing Education Credits: Nurses - 16

[\\$375.00 Click to Register](#)

# Stewardship

## “A New Struggle With Need”

“The poor you will always have with you...”—Matt. 26:11

These are common situations: Families living paycheck to paycheck. Single mothers trying to stretch their resources farther and farther. Homeless men 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, 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.

*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.*

(Written by Pastor Joel Vande Werken for ReFrame Ministries.)



**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**

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

**Church Council**

Jill Hojnacki, President; Brian Hoch, Vice-president; Russ Wells, 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** Fax: 419-243-8180  
 Secretary Email: [stlucasooffice@gmail.com](mailto:stlucasooffice@gmail.com)  
 Pastor Myers Email: [pastorpaulstlucas@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaulstlucas@gmail.com)  
 Cindy's Corner: 419-724-1908 [stlucascindyscorner@gmail.com](mailto:stlucascindyscorner@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.stlucastoledo.org](http://www.stlucastoledo.org)  
 Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/StLucasLutheranChurch](http://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](http://www.nwos-elca.org)



**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.

**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***