



# Blackberry Beacon

*“Let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:16

**June/July 2025**

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## **The Minor Prophets: Micah and Nahum**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During 2025, we will be journeying together through the minor prophets. During the month of June we will be reading the prophet Micah and during the month of July we will be reading Nahum.

### **Micah**

The book of the prophet Micah begins with God's judgment of his people Israel, specifically that the leaders of the people have become corrupt through theft and greed. Even the prophets, those charged with being God's "mouthpiece," have sold out and tell the people what they want to hear – for the right price!

God promises judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. But, like many of the other prophets, these judgments contain words of hope, including the hope of coming Messiah King who will gather a faithful remnant. The pattern of warning, followed by hope, is picked up again in the last part of the book of Micah, summarized in its most famous verse: Micah 6:8. Look up that verse and considering memorizing it this summer.

### **Nahum**

Have you ever wanted God to punish your enemies? Almost all of the prophetic books contain God's judgment on the nations surrounding Israel and then also call out Israel's own sins. The book of Nahum is unique in that it pronounces God's judgment on one of Israel's most despised enemies, the Empire of Assyria and its capital city, Nineveh.

Nahum also uses Nineveh as an example of how God is at work in every age. Arrogant and violent empires will not endure forever! This is good news showing how God is at work in the world.

There are also words of hope in Nahum. God will provide refuge for those who humble themselves before him.

You can find more information about these prophets on the Bible Project website.

Grace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

+ Pastor Matt

**Combined Worship Service at St. Luke's**  
20 S. Yondota Rd., Curtice OH in the shelter house  
**Sunday, June 22**

10:30 AM Worship with Communion

Potluck will follow the service. St. Luke's will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, drinks, and table service. Each family should bring a dish to share and a lawn chair.

**Combined Worship Service at St. Peter**  
**DATE TO BE DETERMINED**

### **Stewardship Reflections**

*The Savior said, "In the same way, Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." NIV*

Matthew 5:16

### **SAVED BY GRACE**

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

*By Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NRSVUE)

I used to think I could gain God's love only through works and good deeds. I thought the more I went to church, served in ministries, and was kind and generous, the more I would be favored. I thought I was worthy only if I did something important.

Our self-esteem often rises and falls depending on our performance and people's approval of us. This can be a real motivation to do great things. But when our self-worth is based on what we do, and we establish our value apart from God, that's when we run into problems.

Today's scripture reminds us that we are saved by grace through faith. This is a gift of God. It is not by our own efforts. We are all equally and abundantly loved. God gave us this gift of grace through Jesus. And when we focus on God's love for us, we are inspired to work joyful for God's glory.

We love God, and that's why we serve. Our good works are fruits of our faith, not the source of it. Through Jesus' sacrifice. We can trust that we are immensely loved. We are blessed. We are forgiven. And we are worthy.

**Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your love for us and for the gift of eternal life. Help us to seek your will and to become more like you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**God's love is a gift freely given.**

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## OUTREACH

Outreach did not meet in May, but will be meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Following is a brief summary of the activities we have done, or will be doing.

Blue Barrel Collection for June is canned fruit going to Elliston Food Pantry and July will be Red, White and Blue foods to Lutheran Social Services.

Movie Night Returns at St. Luke's June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. *Mufasa* will be the entertainment for the evening. Bring a snack, your pillow or sleeping bag and join the fun. Popcorn will be provided.

April's Church Picnic provided plenty of good food and fellowship. Thanks to all of those who lended a hand and who participated.

We continue supporting the Kisereny Pre-School. It is wonderful that we can support this growing program to help improve the lives of these young people. Thank you for all that you have contributed for this coming school year. We will continue to take donations at any time.

Stay tuned for information about our annual Ice Cream Social. The date is yet to be determined.

Stay tuned for a future date for assembling and distributing lunches. We will be distributing them in the 'NorfEnd this time.

Remember to set aside September 24th at 11:45 as we wrap up our series on Aging Gracefully. Jennifer Ramen will present a discussion on Estate Planning Essentials. A wonderful lunch will be provided for free. Come with your questions as Jennifer is a highly regarded attorney.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual God's Work - Our Hands Day of Service September 7, 2025

We have participated in many and various projects throughout the years. We have planted, pulled weeds, painted, cleaned, built shelves, sorted clothing, stocked food pantry shelves, played Bingo, baked cookies, written notes to Service Personnel, picked up trach, and a myriad of other ways of lending a hand in our community.

If you have any ideas for projects for this year's Work Day, please share your thoughts and ideas with a member of your Outreach Ministry. Outreach Ministry members are: Cindy Bench, Pam Fryer, Rufina Hartford, Claudette Allred and Jean Witt.

## Education Ministry

### THANK YOU to our 2024-2025 Sunday School teachers!

Lisa Diekman, Christy Diekman, Dawn Bolen, LeAnne Butzin, Wendy Millinger, Charles Jaeger, Cindy Bench and LeAnne Jaeger.

**Congratulations to our High School Graduates** – Logan Lohner, Jaxson Overmyer, Brooklynn Starkey. Graduate Recognition – Sunday, June 1.

# THANK YOU!

**Grace Alone Furniture Ministry Update:** The ministry has served 24 individuals and families so far this year. The ministry has received many donations from individuals and from caring transitions. We have also purchased many items at auctions this year.

We would like to thank everybody at St. Peter for taking the time to look for bargains on items that the ministry needs to keep us supplied in bed sheets and dishes to give to those in need. We have met some wonderful people that we have served, and that have donated. We find it very rewarding and fulfilling to the task that was given us.

Jim Vermilyea

Dear Church Family,

Larry and I cannot ever thank you enough for your support, love, prayers and your support over all the years for Paul. Paul's luncheon was beautiful... this is the most difficult time we have ever experienced in our life time.

In Christ's love, God's Blessings to each and every one of you.

Leanne & Larry Butzin

We would like to say "Thank you" for the support of yarn and lap quilts. It is greatly appreciated. At this time we are in need of sheets; full size and up. Again, Thank You for supporting our Ministry with yarn, material and purchasing of quilts.

The Quilt Ladies

## CAKE WALK

June 15 following the Worship Service

Bake your finest, tastiest cake and join us for this fun event.

You can find the signup sheet in the Narthex.

**Neighborhood Ice Cream Social  
DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED**



**CALLING ALL GARDENERS!!** What can you do with all your surplus garden produce this summer? Donate it to the Elmore Food Pantry! Help families obtain fresh produce this growing season. The Food Pantry is open the second Friday of each month from 9am to 12 noon at Grace Lutheran Church, 19225 Witty Rd., Elmore. Call head to drop-off your fresh produce the second Thursday of each month at Grace Lutheran. Call Grace Lutheran, 419-862-3630, or Pat Shaffer 419-351-0150

**PHILLIP THE BLUE BARREL**

**“End Hunger”**

<b>JUNE</b>	Canned Fruits – Lutheran Social Services
<b>JULY</b>	Red/White/Blue Canned Foods – LSS
<b>AUGUST</b>	Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam to St. Paul

**VACATION**

**BIBLE SCHOOL**

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church  
20 S. Yondota Rd., Curtice, Ohio  
Curtice, Ohio

**Sunday August 3, 2025**

**1:00 – 4:00 pm**

Ages: 4 years - 6<sup>th</sup> grade, adults are welcome to stay and enjoy the afternoon with us.

**Join in the Fun & Learning!**

This year is a Food Truck theme, starting with a meal of “Quail chunks and manna.” There will be skits, “Manna” bag preparations for Toledo distribution, singing, crafts, games and day-ending desserts.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

We will be holding our last seminar, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:45. Jennifer Ramon is an attorney who presents a great informational program “Estate Planning Essentials”. She will tell us about Estate Planning Tools, How to Avoid Probate, Protecting Assists, and more.

A meal will be provided and she welcomes your question. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Signup sheets will be out the end of August. This will be the final portion of our series. This is a FREE event.

## **Kisereny Update**

May 28, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Peter and St. Luke's.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Kisereny collection for 2025!

Since 35 households have given, the \$2,000 matching gift has been given. Including that matching gift, we are at approximately \$6,232 toward our \$8,000 goal.

If you'd like to make a gift, please do so by this Sunday, June 1.

A representative from partners at Godparents for Tanzania is in Kisereny right now and sending live updates on the kitchen renovations and preschool. Your gifts are making a difference in children's lives!

Thank you all for your generosity!

Pastor Matt

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE

- 3 - Rebekah Perry
- 4 - Robert Allgier, Sr.
- 5 - LeAnne Jaeger
- 7 - Julie Overmyer
- 8 - Nicole Beyer  
Gary Diefenthaler
- 9 - Don Radsick
- 11 - Helen Amonette  
Cindy Musteric  
Ryder Nino
- 12 - Michael Jasinkowski  
Jay Nino
- 16 - Bonnie Dobrosky

- 17 - Hunter Lacer
- 18 - Rachael Goulette  
Jim Vermilyea  
Emersyn Diekman
- 19 - Bowen Peeler
- 20 - Mary Dehring
- 21 - Shirley Witt



- 6 - Charles & Leanne Jaeger
- 14 - Jeff & Andrea Sorg
- 15 - Jim & Kathy Vermilyea
- 16 - Phil & Melissa Antry
- 17 - Larry & LeAnne Butzin

- 21 - Mike & Rachael Goulette
- 24 - Robert & Marlene Behlmer  
- Marty & Christina Starkey
- 30 - Allen & Susan Gahler



- 2 - Wyatt Miller  
- Lucy Musteric  
- Judson Overmyer  
- Merrick Wolff
- 3 - Carol H. Foss  
- Rufena Hartford  
- Jennifer Wolf
- 5 - Amy Behlmer  
- Christy Diekman

- 11 - Pam King  
- Trenton Diekman
- 12 - Jeaney Diefenthaler
- 13 - Marty Starkey
- 15 - Joe Kapp
- 20 - Tait Miller
- 21 - Logan Lohner

- 23 - Karen Schanke  
- Athalee Starkey
- 25 - Becky Beyer
- 27 - Ron Lajti, Sr.
- 28 - Justin Wolff
- 29 - John Beamer
- 30 - Tristan Lacer



- 3 - Ken & Kathy Starkey
- 31 - Richard & Carol Wilburn

## June Book Discussion

### *Abigail Circle*

Monday, June 16  
No July Meeting  
7:00 PM @ church

### *Hannah Circle*

Thursday, June 12  
Thursday, July 11  
10:30 AM @ the church

### *Sew Group*

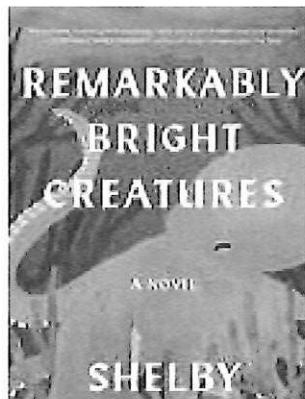
Every Tuesday  
9:00 AM @ the church

### *Book Discussion Group*

Wednesday, June 11  
Wednesday, July 9  
10:00 AM @ the church

### *Bible Study*

Will resume in September



*Tovar becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.*

## July Book Discussion

### Mystery Month