

# LUTHER MEMORIAL C H U R C H



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Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

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April 2025

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 am Worship Faith Chapel  
10:30 am Worship Main Church  
10:30am service live streamed on YouTube.  
Service available on LM website on Monday

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Dear Luther Memorial,  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

You know, every time I have to write a newsletter article for the month in which Easter falls—but a reminder I'm writing in the depths of Lent—it seems kind of awkward to begin by greeting you with the traditional Easter Acclamation. Just a couple weeks ago I led the children in saying farewell to the Alleluia for these 40 days of fasting. Now, with only about a dozen of those days behind me, I'm greeting you with Alleluia's!

At the same time, it seems entirely appropriate to greet you in this way, even before the drama and embodiment of Holy Week begins. We live in this awkward in between. We live in the already-but-not-yet of Christian faith. Every year when we begin Lent, we look with Jesus toward Jerusalem and all that will take place there. We begin anticipating the procession with palms, the footwashing, the Eucharist, the Passion, the Vigil...but we also begin anticipating the empty tomb and resurrection. Nothing that we do in this season is done without knowing the end of the story. Every time we proclaim the Passion and leave Jesus at the end of it buried in the tomb, it is not because we do not already know that we will find that tomb empty the next time we pick up those same scriptures.

This is much like what our life as Christians is like. We already know that while the life of faith may be difficult at times, while the waiting and the watching may be exhausting at times, while the work set before us may seem impossible, none of it is the end of the story for us. The end of the story for us is claiming the promises of Baptism and living into the Resurrection Dawn with our Risen Saviour.

Knowing the end is not truly the end until it is ended in Jesus, we are able to face our daily living with faith and hope and even some love for the world around us. We are able to worry about our neighbors because we know we do not need to worry about ourselves. We can step foot into the muddy sea bank like the Hebrews on their way out of Egypt knowing full well that we will rejoice on the safe side of the sea.

Come! Let us enter even more fully into our Lenten pilgrimage, and most especially I invite you to join in the pilgrimage of Holy Week as we again hear the saving deeds Jesus did for us. And then, and perhaps *only* then after we have been through it all, let us come and rejoice in the Resurrection!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*Pastor Jay*

## Worship Matters! Exploring the Great Three Days

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At the very heart of our lives together as Church we find three days. None of them are a Sunday. I am speaking of the worship of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. These three worship services are collectively known by their Latin name the *Triduum* (literally: Three Days). These three worship services are known by one name because in practice they are one liturgy spread over three days. This year, as we introduce the celebration of the Easter Vigil at Luther, I want to invite you to explore these rich services, some of their history, some of their practices, and a lot of what makes these three utterly unique services so central to our life of faith.

### Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the *Mandatum* or “mandate” that Jesus gives to his disciples on this night. You might find it interesting that while we celebrate the institution of the Lord’s Supper on this night, the mandate is *not* to “do this in remembrance of me.” Rather, the Mandatum is the “New Commandment” that Jesus gives his disciples: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

One of the ways we share in the Love that Jesus *first* shows us (notice the way the Mandatum reads) is the beginning with the Great Absolution. We began Lent with Ash Wednesday’s Great Confession where we listed before God just some of the ways we have fallen short. Throughout Lent we have confessed and received reassurance of our forgiveness, but the powerful words that **In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins** with laying on of hands come to us only at the end of Lent at the beginning of the Maundy Thursday liturgy. As we receive these words of absolution, we transition from Lent into the Three Days which are in many ways their own season of the Church year. We will then be reconciled with God and one another to hear again the call to love one another. And interestingly, we will hear from John’s gospel on this night...not the story of the Last Supper (John doesn’t tell that story, actually) but of Jesus getting up from table and washing his disciples’ feet.

For this reason, in addition to celebrating the Lord’s Supper—Communion, the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Altar—on this night, we also share in the *pedilavium*, the Footwashing. Jesus invites his disciples (that’s us) into this practice as a way of sharing in the servant-like love he first shows us. “As I have washed your feet, go and wash the feet of others.” (John 13:14)

This service ends with a foreshadowing of the continuation on Good Friday with the Stripping of the Altar. As we hear the words of Psalm 88, we watch as all the adornments and supplies of the worship space (anything not permanently installed) is removed leaving the altar, chancel, and worship space bare and in the dark. We leave without a dismissal or postlude as we look toward the next of the three days:

### Good Friday

While it may seem odd to call this day Good, and certainly I have seen folks wanting to call it “God’s Friday” because they do not want to call the day of Jesus’ death Good, nevertheless, on this day we proclaim the Glory of the Cross. This is a foundational day of our faith, and as Lutherans who cling to a Theology of the *Cross* we proclaim that it is in this act of ultimate weakness and vulnerability (there’s nothing more weak and vulnerable than death) that God shows forth the ultimate power over death and sin. Death can only be overcome by Death itself.



Thus, when we gather on this night—without a Prelude, gathering, greeting, just with a simple prayer—we are not gathered to give Jesus a funeral. In the entire story of Jesus’ death and burial, in all four accounts of his Passion, Jesus is never given a funeral. Indeed, we celebrate that it is on their way to give Jesus a proper burial and funeral that the women receive the good news of resurrection!

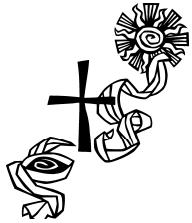
So, when we gather, we share the telling again of Jesus’ Passion. We *always* share in John’s telling of the Passion. In fact, John’s gospel is the gospel of all three nights of the Triduum. This Passion story is different from the others. In John’s telling, Jesus never waivers. He never prays that God take the cup from him in the garden. He never needs Simon to carry his cross for him. He never wonders why God has forsaken him. And he never commends his spirit into anyone else’s

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hands. No. In John, the only words Jesus speaks from the cross are (in order to fulfil scripture) “I thirst.” and “It is finished.” From the beginning of the Passion in the garden when he proclaims that “I Am” until he himself “gives up the ghost,” Jesus is in control. This helps to emphasize that we find Glory and not Sorrow when we gather around the Cross this night.

We begin and end this night in silence, though, as it is the middle of the Three Days. We leave Jesus in the tomb at the end of the service. We do not need to rush to the Resurrection to find Good News on this night. We leave with hope and assurance that death is defeated, even if the tomb is still full. It is in the rough hewn tomb that we leave Jesus and it is where we with Mary will find him when we gather to celebrate:

### The Great Vigil of Easter



This is the most ancient of all worship services the Church shares. It is the earliest celebration. It is the Night of Nights. It is the Feast of Feasts. It is the First Celebration of the Resurrection. As we will share more than one time this night, **This Is The Night!**

We begin this night in silence outdoors. We will gather in the courtyard here at Luther. We light The New Fire and from it light this year’s Paschal Candle—the light of which, when it is lighted, reminds us of the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. From there we proceed to the place of the readings—for us at Luther, Faith Chapel. There, by candlelight we borrow from the Paschal Candle, we will share in the telling of Salvation History. On this night, we literally gather around the fire and tell stories. But these are specific stories. They tell of God’s salvation for God’s people from Creation through to the Resurrection and beyond. We hear about all those times and ways when God intervened for the preservation of God’s people: Creation, the Flood, the Exodus through the Red Sea, the free offering of Salvation to the people of Isaiah, the Deliverance of Jonah from the belly of the whale, the raising of the People of God in the Valley of Dry Bones, and the Salvation offered to Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael in the Fiery Furnace of Nebuchadnezzar.

From there we proceed to the place of baptism—for us, the baptistery in the columbarium. In the early church, this service was the one time of the year when people were baptized. They spent all of Lent preparing for their baptism, and then here, after hearing all the stories they had been studying, they plunged beneath the waters and arose as beloved children of God. Thus, we will hear about our being baptized into Jesus’ own death and resurrection, we will affirm our own baptismal covenant with God, and we will be sprinkled as we profess our faith.

Proceeding from there, and calling out “Springs of Water Bless the Lord!” we enter into the Sanctuary to hear of Mary meeting the Risen Christ in the garden. Here we will proclaim for the first time in worship “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” “Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!” Almost as breathlessly and excitedly as Mary rushed back to tell the disciples “I have seen the Lord!” we head to the Altar where we share the First Eucharist of the Resurrection. Here around risen bread and bubbly cup, we can proclaim the same. For here among us is the Risen Christ!

Ending with a benediction, a dismissal, and a postlude, we have concluded these Three-in-One-in-Three worship services and celebrated the central tenets of our faith. There is only one way to celebrate after all this: Festive Reception! We will join in luscious goodies and bubbly drinks to continue the celebration into the night. For, Christ is risen, but our celebration has just begun! We will continue the celebration on Easter Day with more worship and festivities and then for the following seven weeks!

I invite you, come, let us adore, praise, sing, hear, celebrate, pray...worship! I’ll see you in church!

*Pastor Jay*

### **Wednesday Lenten Worship**

Wednesday services will continue through April 9 with two opportunities to gather for worship and learning.

12:05pm Worship in Sanctuary  
12:30pm Luncheon in Fellowship Hall  
1:00pm Learning in Fellowship Hall

6:00pm Worship on Fifth Floor  
6:30pm Learning on Fifth Floor  
*You are welcome to bring your own  
supper for our Learning Session*



## Lenten Luncheons



Lenten luncheons are offered for each of the five (5) Wednesdays in Lent; March 12 – April 9. Luncheons will be served at 12:35pm in fellowship hall. The cost for each meal is \$10.

April 2 Hamloaf

April 9 Macaroni & Cheese

## Thirty Minutes with God

Thirty Minutes with God will be offered on Thursdays through April 10 at 12:00pm in the Luther Chapel. These spoken services will be a brief rite of Holy Communion with a reading, reflection, and the Sacrament. Set aside this special time during the Lenten season.



## Holy Week and Easter Services

### Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion ~ April 13

Festal Eucharist  
with Palm Procession and Passion



- 8:15am Worship – Main Church
- 10:30am Worship – Processional with Palms  
Main Church
- 12:00pm Family Scavenger Hunt at Luther Memorial

### Maundy Thursday ~ April 17

Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper  
with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar

- 7:00pm Worship ~ Main Church



### Good Friday ~ April 18

Stations of the Cross  
with Organ Reflections



Beginning at 12:00 noon – Main Church

### Good Friday ~ April 18

Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion  
with Adoration of the Cross

7:00pm – Main Church

### Holy Saturday ~ April 19

The Great Vigil of Easter  
with Recitation of Salvation History  
and First Eucharist of the Resurrection



7:00pm – gathering in the Courtyard

### Easter Sunday ~ April 20

Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection

- 8:15am Main Church
- 10:30am Main Church



*Our love and sympathy is extended  
to the family and friends of:*

Dave Cooney, Rob Cooney's dad, who died Monday, March 3, 2025.

Paul Berger, Cheryl Brown's nephew, who died Friday, February 28, 2025.

Lucille Kraut, Ken Kraut's mom, who died Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Ron Henry, Linda Braendel-Henry's husband, who died Sunday, March 9, 2025

## Faith and Society



We continue our feature of Social Statements of the ELCA leading up to Church Wide Assembly 2025. In order of approval and publication, this month we study *Health and Healthcare (2003)*

A reminder that the summaries in our newsletter are presented on the ELCA churchwide website and were developed by the *Theological Discernment Department* in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

In future editions we will explore other Social Statements in order of their approval and endorsement. So, you can look forward to: *The Church and Criminal Justice (2013)*; *Sexism (2019)*.

If you want to explore more about the Social Statement, Social Message, and generally about the Social Policy of the ELCA, you can find more information at: [elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society](http://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society)

### Social Statement on Genetics

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Executive Summary

In order to understand this social statement it is necessary to note several basic convictions that undergird the text:

- The Draft is written in six sections themed by the commitment that Lutheran Christians view the unprecedented potential in genetic research and its application with both promise and caution and the belief that we are accountable to God who is both creative and steadfast.
- It teaches from Scripture that human beings are responsible as “imaginative stewards” who are called to dedicate themselves to the flourishing of life. It also teaches from Scripture that sin (human fault) troubles all human efforts and must be acknowledged and taken into account as decisions are rendered regarding research and application of genetic knowledge.
- Given the scope of both promise and peril, the moral imperative to guide the use of genetic knowledge in medicine, agriculture and other arenas should be “to respect and promote the community of life with justice and wisdom.”
- Genetic developments dramatically affect nature and human society and the ELCA is called to take up its responsibility to encourage and advocate for the use of genetic knowledge according to that imperative. It also is called to practice respect and care for all people affected by the personal and policy decisions that must be made.
- Toward those ends, the Draft provides a framework to guide reflection, deliberation and action.

The following summarize key themes in each section:

#### I. Introduction

- The advances of genetics illustrate an unprecedented and qualitative change in human powers in recent times.
- Such powers invoke a greater level of human accountability for the future of society and nature.
- The ELCA believes that the gracious God who creates, redeems and will fulfill creation has also granted human beings access to discernment and insight, which must govern our use of the gifts of science and commerce.

#### II. Faith Affirmations

- Scripture does not speak about “genetics” but it remains the source and norm for faith and life through the critical light it offers in its insights, patterns and convictions.
- God’s goodness and care orchestrate creation toward an overall abundance and life; each participant has a relationship to God, a created integrity and a vocation.
- The human vocation is to be an “imaginative steward,” that is, the purpose of human beings as a member of God’s creation is to help order and promote the flourishing of the whole.
- Sin is evident in both exalted pride and in negligence; it is both personal and structural.
- The Christian “vantage point” on cultural developments, such as genetics, is provided by God’s self-revelation in Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection; we live between the already of God’s present work and the not yet of present fault, error and limitation.

#### III. Social Context

- A salutary conversation about genetic developments requires knowledge and insights from both “secular” and faith-informed sources.
- The ELCA values the genetic sciences and acknowledges the theoretical insights on which they rest; it also recognizes that genetic developments occur rapidly, limiting our capacity for deliberating the moral and social implications.

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- The global context of genetic research and application is one of extreme interdependence, economic and power inequality, and the consolidation of power in small networks of key decision makers.
- The ELCA affirms that genetic research and application can be social instruments that contribute significantly to the human vocation and thereby bring much good into the world; yet the ELCA is concerned, given the far-reaching power and the global context of genetic research and applications, about the potential harm to the community of life when such power is placed in imperfect human hands—this misuse or abuse can occur through exalted pride or negligence.
- The confidence to act in the face of both the promise and the peril arise from trust in God, fed and informed by the cross and resurrection; the necessity to deliberate, act and evaluate genetic developments on their merits leads to the need for a common understanding of values and directives, that is, an ethical framework.

#### IV. An Ethical Framework

- The ethical imperative in an age of unprecedented power is to respect and promote the community of life with justice and wisdom—each term arising from the theology and basic ethical commitments already set forth in the statement; in one sense this imperative is simply a contemporary restatement of the golden rule to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”
- Each sub-section explores the meaning and moral implications of a key term of this ethical framework:
  - the good of the community of life is the value which all research and application should seek to advance; this registers a concern not only for human good but, in some measure, a concern for the biosphere and future generations;
  - the principle respect has priority over the principle promote; this ethical framework offers a cautious approach that respects the priority of species and natural processes as they currently exist, but does not in principle object to imagination and innovation when science, commerce or public policy can demonstrate a contribution to the good of all;
  - the meaning of justice is specified through four principles: sufficient, sustainable, solidarity and participation; the best uses of genetic knowledge will be those that can demonstrate how they contribute to the growth of sufficiency, sustainability, solidarity and participation in human society and within the wider order of all of creation;
  - the meaning of wisdom in the contemporary context invokes duty to use “expert knowledge” for the good of all, to exercise humility and, on occasion, the need to invoke the precautionary principle.
- Convictions of two kinds are offered in section four:
  - a limited number of specific convictions illustrate the import of key principles such as respect or the principles of justice on selected “topics” such as reproductive cloning, human embryonic stem cells, research priorities and regulatory policy.
  - a collection of general convictions are offered in sub-section 4.7; these are divided among affirmative, negative and “mixed” concerns that prompt “sharp” questions.

#### V. Challenges for a Community in Christ

- The foreseeable future indicates a tremendous increase in range and scope of ambiguous promise and in complex, dynamic and sometimes anguishing situations. In such times the ELCA is called to live into its identity as koinonia, that is, a “deep mutuality in Christ.”
- This entails:
  - congregations and other ministry sites becoming places of welcome of difference and giving special attention to being safe places for common reflection, deliberation, discernment and acceptance;
  - leaders educated with a working knowledge of these matters including a deepened understanding of koinonia, vocation, moral formation and deliberation;
  - lay leaders living out their daily callings in light of their faith, with a special concern for enhanced dialogue among scientists and congregational members and pastors;
  - being a public church;
  - proposing this ethical framework for use in the public square—it provides essential criteria and common ground for guiding commercial and social policy.

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## VI. Power, Choice and Responsibility

- The terms power, choice and responsibility summarize convictions of the statement about the nature of society in these times and invoke a call to wise use of genetic knowledge.
- The statement concludes with the theme that Christian confidence to live boldly in complex and ambiguous times is possible because of the steadfastness of the Triune God.

## Fellowship

### Magic Fingers Grace Group

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There's no time to spare so we better hop to it and keep those knitting needles busy. Spring colors await for some beautiful prayer shawls and projects. Enjoy some company while you knit and join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. We meet from 10:00am – 12:00 noon and would love to share the morning with you. Mark it on your calendars for **April 8 and 22**.

If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476 or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221 with any questions. Please let us know if you are low on yarn and some can be dropped off to you.

### OWLS

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Our OWLS group will take part in the Wednesday Lenten worship services in March and April. Join us each week as we prepare for Easter by attending our Lenten services.

**Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9**

12:05pm - Service      12:30pm - Luncheon (fellowship hall; \$10)

## Women of the ELCA

### Tuesday Circle News

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It's not April Fool's . . . our next Tuesday Circle gathering is April 1 at 3:00pm. We're looking forward to seeing you.

Our Circle is open to all women. Please contact Pat Young, President, at 455-7736, or our church office, 454-0106, ext. 221, with any questions.



### Deborah Circle

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Join us on Tuesday, April 1 for our monthly gathering at 12:00 noon in the church parlor. We'll see you there.

For more information on the Deborah Circle, please contact Judy Johnson at 833-4600.

### Pennies for Poverty

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As a continuing project to aid women and children in crisis, special containers for donations to "Pennies for Poverty" are located by the doors to the Main Church and Faith Chapel. Our women's groups thank one and all for your donations of coins and dollars.





### EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Orders Due by Sunday, March 30

As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 20, we also remember friends and loved ones with beautiful spring flowers for the chancel. We invite you to order **lilies, hyacinths, tulips, azaleas or hydrangeas**; each in a 6" pot. To place your order, please use the form below and return it, with the correct remittance, to the church office no later than Sunday, March 30. Thank you.

Volunteers are needed to deliver flowers to our friends who are unable to leave their homes and worship with us. If you are able to help with delivery, please indicate so at the bottom of the order form.

\_\_\_\_\_ flowers in memory of:

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ flowers in honor of:

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FLOWERS:**

**PLANTS:**

# Lilies Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

# Azaleas Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

# Hyacinths Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

# Hydrangeas Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

# Tulips Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of flowers \_\_\_\_\_ X \$9.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Azaleas \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Hydrangeas \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ Will take order

\_\_\_\_\_ Give to Shut-ins

\_\_\_\_\_ Will help deliver plants to shut-ins

### Easter Dinner

Make Gahr's hamloaf your main course for Easter dinner. And remember the new specialty sausage flavors, too. Simple to make and your meal will taste great! Continuing to support local companies, Gahr's is located in Franklin, PA.

- ❖ Orders for hamloaf will be accepted through Friday, March 28.
- ❖ To place an order:
  - Order forms are located on the tables at each entrance
  - Contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or
  - Email at [nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org).
- ❖ Cost: 1 lb. hamloaf @ \$6 / \$2 lb. hamloaf @ \$10.
- ❖ New sausage flavors are also available.
- ❖ Delivery: Orders will be ready for pick up on Palm Sunday, April 13.





## Christian Education

### Sunday Mornings

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#### Second Sunday of each Month

Children in PreK- Grade 5 gather for Sunday School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month from 9:30- 10:15am. Class will not be held on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Our LYO, grades 6 - 12, will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 20.

### Messages for the Young & Young-at-Heart

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It doesn't matter your age - Pastor Jay will share Messages for the "Young" every Sunday during the 10:30am service.

### First Holy Communion Classes

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First Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, May 4, 2025 during the 10:30am service.

**In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on Saturday, April 26 and Saturday, May 3 from 9:00am - 12:00 noon, including snack time.** These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. Classes will be held in fellowship hall. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

### Celebration

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Our First Holy Communion students and families will take part in two workshops; April 26 and May 3. Our students will make their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 4 and we invite you to join us as we congratulate them with a fun bowling party.



First Communion **Students:** No Charge  
**Sunday, April 27 from 1:00 - 3:00pm**  
Westway Lanes, 8674 W Ridge Rd, Girard

**Cost per game: Adults / \$4.25**  
**Children: No charge**  
Shoes: No charge

Pizza and fountain drinks are available at the alley.

**EVERYONE is invited to bowl and celebrate with us.**  
**Please contact the church office or let Beth Keller know you if plan to attend.**

## Youth (and Family) Events

### LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

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**Tuesday, April 8**  
5:30 - 7:00pm

Have you joined us for LIA yet? This will be a perfect time to stop down for a fun evening and dinner with us. Youth in grades 5-12 meet the second Tuesday of each month to discuss service projects and enjoy each other's company.

## Help! Confirmation Students at Camp Lutherlyn

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Confirmation is an important moment in the life of a young person. It is the first time baptized Christian youth profess their intention to live up to the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and become a professing member of a congregation.

Youth confirmed at Luther Memorial have completed three (3) years of confirmation classes and are also encouraged to attend Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherlyn each summer. This year our youth in grades 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, will be attending Confirmation Camp **Sunday, June 15 - Friday, June 20, 2025**. We are excited about the experiences our youth will have as they attend Confirmation Camp this June. Information will be sent to all parents and students about the details of Confirmation Camp. The necessary forms are also available on Luther Memorial's website. If you have not received the information, please contact the church office. Registration is open now.

Because confirmation does have a cost we are doing four things. First, Luther Memorial, per the 2025 budget, will pay a portion of the money. Second, each student will pay \$100. Third, to help offset church expenses, our youth are involved in many fundraising opportunities. And fourth, just like in previous years we are asking for student sponsors. **The cost to sponsor one student for the week is \$100.** So many have been very responsive to this way to give in previous years, so please consider sponsoring one or more students! If you feel called to respond in this way, you may mail a check to Luther Memorial marked Confirmation Camp or call Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski or Norma Buerk. We thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## Adult Forum

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### *Immortal, Invisible God:*

The season of Lent calls us into contemplation through the various disciplines of Lent. But contemplation of God, ourselves, and all of creation is not unique to us. In this session of Adult Forum, we will hear from just some of the Christian Mystics who have lived, taught, sang, and otherwise inspired the Divine Imagination of the Church to better stand in awe of God.

**Gatherings will be held each Sunday at 9:15am through April 6.**



## Second Sunday Soirée

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We invite you to stop in the parlor the second Sunday of the month for a relaxing time and discussion on various topics. **Church Council will host our next gathering on Palm Sunday, April 13. Please join us in the parlor from 9:10 - 10:30am.** Please see Pastor Jay or contact the church office if you would like to host a Sunday Soirée with some small snacks. Thank you.



## Book Group

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On the second Monday of odd months we gather in the parlor at 6:00pm for a Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay. We invite you to join us on **Monday, May 12** as we begin the book *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and Faith* by Heidi Neumark. During our discussion Heidi Neumark will be on Zoom with our group. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

## B.A.D. – Bible after Dark

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Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book *Context* by Josh Scott. We gather at **Calamari's** on the **first Wednesday** of each month at 6:30pm. Copies of the book can be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage or other sustenance as we chat! We will be gathering throughout Lent for mid-week and Sunday services. Our next gathering of B.A.D. will be **Wednesday, May 7.**



**Coming up this Saturday, March 29 . . .**

**Spring Craft Show**

**Saturday, March 29  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
Entrance Fee: \$2  
Fellowship Hall**

Spring is in the air and our crafters have spectacular new items to share at our Spring Craft Fair. Freshen up your home inside and out and pick up some beautiful items to brighten your day (and maybe someone else's, too). Professional crafters will have a large selection of items from which to choose. Better bring more than one bag - there's a lot of shopping to do.



**See you on Saturday!**

**April Birthdays**

Amy Cunningham 4-1  
Maryanne Chaffee 4-1  
Arlene Evans 4-2  
Kyle Henry 4-2  
Alvento Chandler 4-2  
Sharon Burke 4-2  
Robert Hessinger 4-3  
Carol Zamperini 4-3  
Veronica Wolf 4-4  
Jordan Woodward 4-4  
Aurora Houston 4-4  
Skip Meyn 4-4  
Sutton Rowland 4-4  
Sue Visalle 4-5  
Karissa Kurtich 4-5  
Paul Meucci 4-5  
Hannah Lujbli 4-5



James Koenig 4-6  
Solomon Washington 4-8  
Rebecca Carullo 4-9  
Barbara Lemke 4-11  
Anna Mezzacapo 4-12  
Bailee Foutz 4-12  
Cathy Beck 4-13  
Andrew Laver 4-14  
Gaberial Noble 4-16  
Jane Moran 4-16  
Autumn Meyn 4-16  
Phil Symes 4-18  
Bryan Timm 4-18  
Charles Mitchell 4-18  
Judy Crissman 4-21  
Darlene Downey 4-22  
Michael Brown 4-22



Jean McMillin 4-22  
Michael Hedlund 4-22  
Mary Breyley 4-24  
Tessa Wolf 4-25  
Brian Moran 4-25  
Judy Johnson 4-27  
Mary Daniels 4-29  
Alanna Jerauld 4-29  
William Soder 4-29  
Roberta Lobaugh 4-29  
Martha Klomp 4-30  
Ann Flick 4-30  
Ellen Cadden 4-30  
Jeserie Woodward 4-30  
Linda Brandt 4-30

**April Sunshine Birthdays**

Paul Meucci 4/5  
Friendship Towers  
111 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Box 162  
Erie, PA 16501

Barbara Lemke 4/11  
21 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apt. 307  
Erie, PA 16501



William Soder 4/29  
Soldiers & Sailors Home  
560 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16507

**Thank You**

Les Fobes, and all who helped with the luncheon for Cathy:

The MacGregor family so very much appreciated the efforts of all who made the luncheon celebration for Cathy such a warm gathering. Our hearts will always be with the wonderful friends of Luther. You all are missed very much.

With love and gratitude,  
*Don MacGregor & family*



Dear Luther Memorial Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$650 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

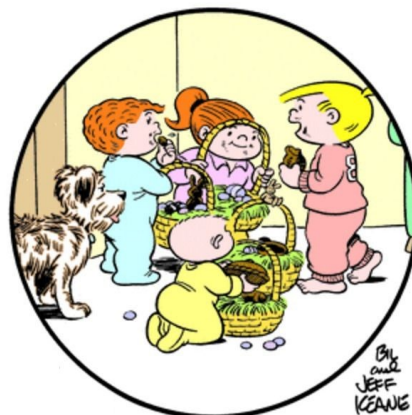
Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,  
*The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Give, Service and Justice  
ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response*

## March 2025 Council Meeting

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1. **Minutes** - On motion, the minutes of the February 11, 2025 Council Meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Pastor Jay's Report** - Shared Ministries Taskforce met and began conversation on what moving forward looks like for the Erie Conference. A retreat will be held at the end of March and anyone is welcome to attend. Touched on upcoming Erie Conference retreat, Faith Formation opportunities, outreach, and upcoming youth and family scheduling. Council will be hosting a Second Sunday Soirée on Palm Sunday, April 13, between the services.
3. **Property Committee** -
  - a. Awaiting bid from ProSource on carpeting for the school classrooms; summer 2025
  - b. Luther Memorial Church and Academy sign for the greenspace will be installed once the weather breaks.
  - c. Glass for office doors (Pastor's office, conference room, Cantor's office and Christian Education office) has been ordered. David Buerk will be doing the installation.
4. **Safety Committee** - Exit maps to be placed throughout building.
5. **Hospitality Committee** - Volunteer needed for this committee.
6. **Holy Trinity Dinner** - Thursday, April 24, 2025; volunteers are needed to help serve food.
7. **Security Guard** - Richard Rowland is our new replacement.
8. **Knox Law Firm Request** - They have requested use of 10 parking spaces during the week near Sassafras Street. They will give a donation for the use. If there is an event at the church, they would park elsewhere. On motion it was unanimous to grant this request.
9. **Tenant Issue** - A letter was received from a tenant at the Renew Building that items are blocking their entrance following the Bethany Outreach distribution. The issue was discussed with the Bethany Outreach director and should be resolved.
10. **Electricity Renewal** - Our contract ends in November and there will be significant rate increases. Our provider suggested we lock in a 3-year contract with an energy price of 1.10563/kwh. On motion it was unanimous to sign the 3-year contract which will begin in December.
11. **Roof Replacement on East Side of Building** - A roof leak by the side entrance had been temporarily repaired prior to winter. An estimate of \$25,899 was received from Jason Klemm Slate and Copper to permanently repair the roof. On motion it unanimous to move forward with the repair.
12. **Treasurer's Report** - On motion it was unanimous to approve the Treasurer's report as presented by Greg Kern.
13. **Cantor's Report** - Experience Choir Sunday was a big success. During Lent there will be a "bench swap" with Frank Denaro at Immanuel for some services. Looking into increased funding for the Concert Series from the community.
14. **Council Meeting** - The next council meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00pm.



By  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

"Easter tastes better than Halloween,  
and we don't have to ring a lot  
of doorbells."



## Wizard of Oz

Students have been practicing for weeks and are looking forward to presenting "The Wizard of Oz". You will be taken back to Kansas and meet Dorothy and her beloved dog, Toto, as well as the Scarecrow, Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion. The performance will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor stage with two opportunities to enjoy the play:



Friday, April 4 - 7:00pm

Saturday, April 5 - 2:00pm

Tickets are \$2/adults and \$1/children

Tickets will be sold at the door; first come, first serve. Space is limited.

Join us for this delightful play and enjoy the wonderful talent of our LMA students.

## The 3 "P's"!

Shout out to our February's Pizza with the Principal and Pastor students for exemplifying the character trait of KINDNESS. They earned a luncheon in the parlor. The award luncheons are held for one student from each class that exemplifies the monthly character trait. Stay tuned for our next newsletter to see who has exemplified the trait of CURIOSITY for the month of March.

April - Created to be HONEST



## Jr. Achievement Day



April 8, 2025 is our annual JA in a Day, a presentation put on by Junior Achievement. All students attend the hands-on presentation giving them knowledge to make smart academic and economic choices. Junior Achievement also provides scholarship money for our students each year.

## Geography Bee

Our Geography Bee classroom tests will begin on April 9, 2025 and the final competition date is set for April 30, 2025.



## New Lego Club

Mr. and Mrs. Torres will be running a Lego Club after school on Wednesdays in April.



## Did You Know?



Did you know that all LMA students are required to complete service hours? We also try to provide opportunities for students to earn these hours throughout the year. For example, on April 8, 2025 all students may stay after school to help stuff Easter eggs for a hunt at Fairview Manor!

## "SouPPPPer" Contest Winner

Congratulations to Pastor Jay who won our second annual "SouPPPPer" contest and earned the Golden Ladle for the second year in a row!



## Early Dismissal

Report cards will be sent home on Friday, April 11.

Dismissal: 11:30am / No After School Program



Teacher meeting will be held in the afternoon.

## Easter Break

Enjoy your Easter vacation. Classes will not be held Monday, April 14 - Monday, April 21.

Classes resume: Tuesday, April 22





## Spring Program

The birds are back, the flowers are blooming and our Spring Program is here. Join us Monday, April 28 at 6:00pm in the main church as we welcome spring with a special program. The book fair will also be open in the library for everyone to visit. Students will have the opportunity to visit the book fair Wednesday, April 23 - Friday, April 25.



## Erie's St. Patrick's Day Parade

LMA had so much fun walking in this year's parade. We even won the Crowd Fan Favorite Float! Check out our pictures on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/luthermemorialacademy>.



## Payments

**TUITION BREAK:** If you are responsible for a new student(s) attending LMA for the entire year, you will receive a \$500 tuition discount applied at the end of the year. Sometimes word of mouth is our best advertising!! If you know a family thinking of changing schools, let them know about us!! Have them call to schedule a tour today!



## Wish List

Every little bit helps LMA; thank you.

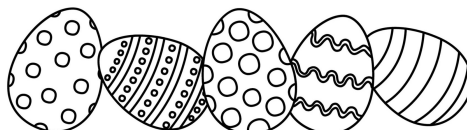
- Bottled water - small and large
- Cases of paper
- Plates & napkins



- Monetary donations for Art & Music Supplies
- Monetary donations for the MJ Howell fund, which benefit teachers and staff

## Easter Word Jumble

- TEESRA \_\_\_\_\_
- NUYNB \_\_\_\_\_
- GSNPRI \_\_\_\_\_
- COTHCELAO \_\_\_\_\_
- YNCAD \_\_\_\_\_
- GEG \_\_\_\_\_
- EKTSAB \_\_\_\_\_





## APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10:00am Pericope 12:00pm Deborah Circle 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 3:00pm W/ELCA	<b>2</b> 12:05pm Worship 12:35pm Luncheon 1:00pm Learning 2:30pm Lego League 6:00pm Worship 6:30pm Learning	<b>3</b> 9:00am Play Dress Rehearsal 12:00pm 30 Minutes with God 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00pm LMA Play; Wizard of Oz 	<b>5</b> 10:00am Quilting 2:00pm LMA Play Matinee; Wizard of Oz
<b>6</b> <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Forum	<b>7</b> 11:00am Balance Class 	<b>8</b> 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm Council LMA Jr. Achievement Day	<b>9</b> 12:05pm Worship 12:35pm Luncheon 1:00pm Learning 2:30pm Lego League 6:00pm Worship 6:30pm Learning	<b>10</b> 12:00pm 30 Minutes with God 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir	<b>11</b> 11:30am LMA Dismissal	<b>12</b> 10:00am Julia House Meeting
<b>13</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Second Sunday Soirée 12:00pm Family Scavenger Hunt	<b>14</b> 11:00am Balance Class LMA Closed	<b>15</b> LMA Closed	<b>16</b> LMA Closed	<b>17</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00pm Worship  LMA Closed	<b>18</b> <i>Good Friday</i>  12:00pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm Worship LMA & Church Offices Closed	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Easter Vigil 
<b>20</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 	<b>21</b> LMA & Church Office Closed	<b>22</b> 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 3:15pm School Board	<b>23</b> 2:30pm Lego League 1:30pm Tea with Thom LMA Book Fair	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir LMA Book Fair	<b>25</b> LMA Book Fair	<b>26</b> 9:00am Holy Communion Workshop
<b>27</b> 8:15/10:30am Worship 1:00pm Bowling Party - First Communion & Congregation	<b>28</b> 6:00pm LMA Spring Program	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am LMA Geography Bee 2:30pm Lego League			