

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



12 JANUARY 2025
The Baptism of Jesus
The First Sunday of Ordinary Time
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

TOGETHER WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

- + Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.
- + If you have a need to **children**'s bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.
 - Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.
- + An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.
- + You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.
- + We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

12 JANUARY 2025
THE BAPTISM OF JESUS
Holy Communion • *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Setting IV • 10:30

GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”

PRELUDE – "Prelude sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie"

M. Durufle

Please stand as you are able as we gather with song.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 423

Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day,
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

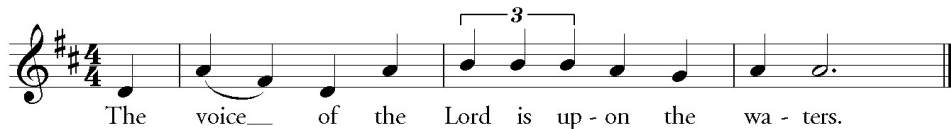
¹But now thus says the Lord, the one who created you, O Jacob, the one who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

The Word of the Lord.

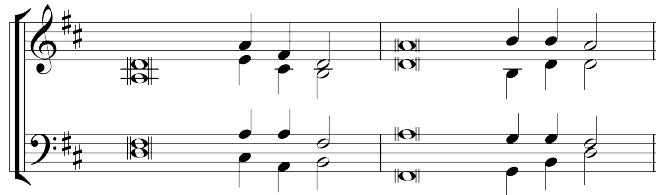
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

Antiphon: (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated.)



Tone:



¹Ascribe to the [Lord] you gods,
ascribe to the Lord [glory] and strength.

²**Ascribe to the Lord the glory [due] God’s name;
worship the Lord in the [beauty] of holiness.**

³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; ... the God of [glo]-ry thunders;
the Lord is upon the [might]-y waters.

⁴**The voice of the Lord is a [pow’r]-ful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a [voice] of splendor. Antiphon**

⁵The voice of the Lord [breaks] the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the [cedars] of Lebanon;

⁶**the Lord makes Lebanon [skip like] a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a [young] wild ox.**

⁷The [voice of] the Lord
bursts forth in [light]-ning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the Lord [shakes] the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the [wilderness] of Kadesh. Antiphon**

⁹The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe ...
and strips the [for]-ests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord ... all are [cry]-ing “Glory!”

**¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned a-[bove] the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for-[ev]-ermore.**

¹¹O Lord give [strength to] your people;
give them O Lord the [blessings] of peace. *Antiphon*

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*A voice from heaven said,
“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”*

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ²¹Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

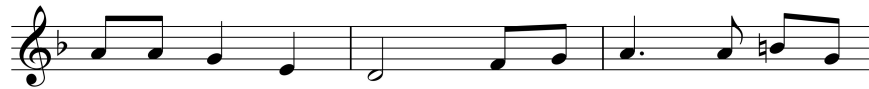
Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, You Make All Water Holy





it with Spir - it flame. May your church now wel-come
 by good news he heard, wel-comed Phil - ip and was
 cleans-ing all who come. Now we bring our sons and
 bod - y, brave and bold. We are born in man - y
 jus - tice, right - ing wrong, show - ing love as we are



oth - ers, bap - tiz - ing in Je - sus'
 bap - tized, brought to faith by Gos - pel
 daught - ters, as when John bap - tized your
 place - es, man - y fac - es, young and
 a - ble join - ing in a free - dom



name. Free us all from sin and shame.
 word. Let our hearts with joy be stirred!
 Son. Praise to you! Your will be done!
 old. See the Spir - it's gifts un - fold.
 song. May God's pres - ence keep us strong!

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947; © 2018, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: THOMAS; Marty Haugen b.1950; © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- Ⓟ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- Ⓟ Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor.
- ☛ **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**
- Ⓟ Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for the gifts of water all around us.
- ☛ **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**
- Ⓟ Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again, the Ethiopian official is baptized into new life with Philip.
- ☛ **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**
- Ⓟ Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life.
- ☛ **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**
- Ⓟ Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- ☛ **Amen.**

The assembly is sprinkled with water in remembrance of baptism.

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
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THE PRAYERS

You may sit, kneel, or stand as is your custom.

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

- P** You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- C** **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

We share signs and gestures of peace with one another. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. After, please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

VOLUNTARY – “Noel Suisse”

J. W. Greene

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

ELW 310

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.
- C** Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- P** God of hope, in your Holy Spirit you hovered over the face of the waters in creation, and in your pillar of fire you led your people to liberation across the Red Sea. Through the waters you brought your people into the life and land of promise. In your Son's baptism at the Jordan we see your creative and liberating purpose at work amid our human flaws and failures, and we hear anew with hope the promise of your voice. In our own baptism you number us among your saints, created and redeemed for your glory. Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ yet raise us to new life with him forever. And so, we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessing God, who sends down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved, send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace. By the power of that same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and cup be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

- ☐ Great is the mystery of faith.
- ☑ **Christ has died;**
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
- ☐ God of glory, you have opened your heaven and come among us. Be close to those who ache for your liberating power in the midst of travails and see your open heaven. Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking, and restoring touch of your Spirit and look for your Reign to come. Bless all who long to be called beloved, by sibling or parent or spouse or friend or child, and any who are searching for the love that only you can bring, until all stand in your presence, and sing your name, and are enfolded in your embrace, Motherly, Majestic, and Mysterious, ever One God.
- ☑ **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

☑ **Amen. We Come.**

☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

*Baked bread is being used. For those who so desire, gluten-free wafers are available;
please let the pastor know.*

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

*All are invited to the Meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ACS 916

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.



When Jesus Came to Jordan



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
 Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

TABLE BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...and bring you to everlasting life.
- ☑ Amen.

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

- ☐ Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☐ We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.
- ☑ We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS



☑ Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo-ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C Amen.

SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P ... now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 302

As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A Go in peace. Live in hope.
- Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Gloria"

T. Albrecht

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTOR – Cathy Meyn

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Carl Moore

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our loved ones and God's blessing to all as we begin this New Year 2025 by Jan and Skip MacInnes.

Today's Events

Join us this morning at 9:15 in the parlor for Second Sunday Soirée. If you would like to help with hosting this opportunity for fellowship between the services, please talk with Pastor Jay.

Sunday School for grades PreK-grade 5 will meet this morning at 9:30.

Congregational Life will meet at 11:30 this morning.

Desk calendars for 2025, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

Greeting cards can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

Worship Matters!

The First Sunday of Ordinary Time is always the celebration of Jesus' baptism. There are really two periods in the Church Year when we observe "ordinary time." You can tell these seasons because the color for the season is green—a color of growth and life. These seasons (one after the Epiphany until just before Lent and the other after the Day of Pentecost until the end of the Church Year) are called "ordinary" not because they are ho-hum or unnecessary but because we mark these times with ordinal numbers (First, Second, Third, etc.). We are marking time nevertheless but, in these seasons, we learn and celebrate more about *our* part in the story rather than specific events in the life of Jesus. The more colorful seasons of the Church Year are broken up into two cycles: The Incarnation Cycle, which we just completed on The Epiphany, marks a time of preparation for (Advent) and then celebration of (Christmas) God Incarnate: Jesus is born! The Resurrection Cycle, which comes at the end of this first ordinary time, marks a time of preparation for (Lent) and celebration of (Easter) the Resurrected Christ. Both of these cycles end with a celebration wherein we take our place in the story: on The Epiphany we are drawn into the story of proclaiming God in the World by seeing ourselves in the magi from afar; on The Day of Pentecost, we are drawn into the story of proclaiming the defeat of death and sin by celebrating the birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit upon all believers.

So, in this Ordinary Time, let us not cease our celebrations but rather recognize our place in the story of God-at-work-in-the-world and continue our proclamation. As the theologian Howard Thurman wrote:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation are appreciated to the church office by Sunday, January 12, 2025. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 26, and copies will be available to the congregation.

Children in PreK-grade 9 will enjoy a movie and snacks during the Congregational Meeting. We will meet on the 5th floor.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay would love to get together to chat! Feel free to schedule some time with him in the office, at home, or out for a bite. However, if you would like to "drop in" on him, you can find him this Thursday (1/16) at Brew Ha Ha (in the Colony Plaza) from 8:00-9:30am.

Concert Event

Decho Ensemble will present a concert at Luther Memorial Church on Saturday, January 18 at 7:00pm. Hailed as a “winning combination in every way!”, **Decho** was founded by Sarah Marchitelli and Jacob Swanson in 2011 with the intention of sharing the saxophone as a concert instrument of wide-ranging capability. Critically acclaimed for their “blend and precision”, the ensemble has performed throughout North America and Europe. Following years of continuous collaboration, in 2019 Dr. Katherine Petersen joined Decho to champion works for voice and saxophone.

Worship

Prayers Arise, a Service of Evening Prayer in the spirit of Holden Village, will be offered each Wednesday in January at 6:00pm. We will gather on the 5th floor for this half hour Vespers Service; January 15, 22 and 29.

Lent Devotional

Luther Memorial will offer a Congregational Devotional for Lent with reflections by our members. We ask that your reflection be no more than 200 words followed by a short two (2) sentence prayer. The scripture is provided on the sign-up sheet; please see Pastor Jay for further text that will correspond to the date you select. A sign-up sheet is located at the welcome table. The completed Devotional will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. All reflections are asked to be submitted by Monday, February 24. Thank you for your help in what will be meaningful devotionals throughout Lent.

Faith Formation

All confirmation families (grades 7-9) will meet on Sunday, January 19 from 9:30-10:15am in the library for updates and check-ins regarding upcoming activities, events, and requirements. If you have questions, please contact Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski, or Pastor Jay.

Brown Bag Bible gathers each Wednesday in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic for January–February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God’s people.

Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, will meet the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on January 13 we will begin the book *The Amen Effect, Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts* and World by Sharon Brous. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (Bible After Dark) will not meet in January. Our gatherings will begin on February 5 at Calamari’s at 6:30pm and continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book ***Context*** by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat.

Youth Gathering

All youth in grades 5-12 and their families are invited to join us for dinner and LIA on Tuesday, January 14 at 5:00pm in our fellowship hall. Come, enjoy, and learn what LIA is all about.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will begin our 2025 gatherings on January 14 and 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS Valentine Luncheon at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, will be held Friday, February 14, 2025 from 12:00-12:30pm. This event is attended by so many that to ensure your reservation we ask that you contact Jan MacInnes or Norma in the church office as soon as possible. The entrées are sliced sirloin with red wine reduction and Mary Me chicken, along with oven roasted red skin potatoes and steamed broccoli. Also included is a side salad, bakery rolls with butter and for dessert, cake.

Items to Note

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Abbie & Ben Dixon	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Matt, Jessica Kinzig & family	Virginia Long	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes
Marilyn Bohn & family	Ann Flick	Bob Giannelli	
Friends and Family:			
Cheryl Runstedler	Jenn	Norma Lynch	Norbert Ericson
Jessica Bulos Grubb	Phil F.	Karen	Curtis Krick
Leigh Ann Fassnacht	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Tom Dean
Branden Jones	Teddy & Rebecca	Jean Coburn	Cheryl Atkinson
Bernadette Mulder	Kevin D.	Tom Kraut	Steve Sensor
Andy Zimmerman	Jim Roberts	Bev	Dale Dannhaus
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn	Racheal Thompson	Joey & family	Michele Seifert
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Phil	Jane	Amy S.
Mary & Urban LaRiccia	Carol Steffey & Marissa	Andrew Wachter	Chris Beckman
Cara & Bradley Kendra	Bill		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

January 13 – Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17

January 14 – Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; I John 5:13-21

January 15 – **Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968** – Exodus 3:7-12; Psalm 77:11-20; Romans 12:9-21; Luke 6:27-36 -- *An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.*

January 16 – Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24

January 17 – **Anthony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356; Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346** – I Peter 5:6-10; Psalm 91:9-16; Mark 10:17-21 -- *One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor. AND Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.*

January 18 – **THE CONFESSION OF PETER, The Beginning of The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – Acts 4:8-13; Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19; I Corinthians 10:1-5; Matthew 16:13-19 -- *Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.*

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 13	6:00pm	Book Group
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14	10:00am	Magic Fingers Grace Group
	5:00pm	Youth & Family Dinner (LIA)
	5:15pm	Safety Meeting
	6:00pm	Council
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15	12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16	1:00pm	Grief Group
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17		
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18	10:00am	Quilting
	7:00pm	Decho Ensemble

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Worship with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

VASA will meet at 1:00pm.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Ann Flick
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Nick Lang
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	