

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



26 JANUARY 2025
The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Season after the Epiphany
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!

WE HAVE SEEN CHRIST'S STAR AT ITS RISING

COME! LET US WORSHIP HIM!

- + 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).

26 JANUARY 2025
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Holy Communion • *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Setting IV • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Thaxted”

R. Nelson
R. Farlee

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES

Invocation

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

Collect for Purity

☞ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

Confession

☞ Most merciful God,

☞ **we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done**

and by what we have left undone.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Absolution

☞ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by per
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

OPENING SENTENCE

P Blessed be the one, holy, † and living God.

C Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

GLORIA



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



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.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

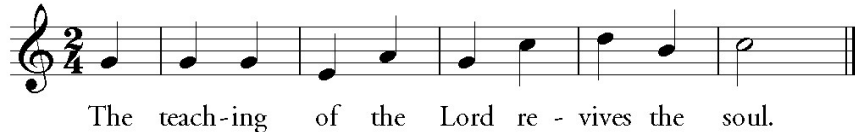
¹All the people of Jacob gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³Ezra read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So the Levites read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then Ezra said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

Antiphon: *(Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated. The congregation joins in the verses of the Psalm printed in bold typeface.)*



Tone:



¹The heavens declare the [glory] of God,
and the sky proclaims its [mak]-er’s handiwork.

**²One day tells its [tale to] another,
and one night imparts knowledge [to] another.**

³Although they have no [words] or language,
and their voices [are] not heard,

**⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, ...
and their message to the [ends of] the world,
where God has pitched a [tent for] the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom [out of] his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to [run] its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens ...
and runs about to the end of [it] again;
nothing is hidden from its [burn]-ing heat. *Antiphon***

⁷The teaching of the Lord is perfect ... and re-[vives] the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure ... and gives wisdom [to] the simple.

⁸The statutes of the Lord are just ... and re-[j]oice the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is clear ... and gives [light to] the eyes.

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and en-[d]ures forever;

the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous [al]-together.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, ... more than [much] fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, ... than honey [in] the comb. *Antiphon***

¹¹By them also is your [servant] enlightened,
and in keeping them there is [great] reward.

¹²Who can detect one's [own] offenses?

Cleanse me from my [se]-cret faults.

¹³Above all keep your servant from presumptuous sins; ...

let them not get do-[min]-ion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, ... and innocent of a [great] offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth ...

and the meditation of my heart ... be acceptable [in] your sight,

O Lord my strength and [my] redeemer. *Antiphon*

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor,
and to proclaim release to the captives.*

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
The Lord has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

²⁰And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

After a brief silence, you may stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 710

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let_ streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 The_ dread - ed dis - ap - pear - ance of fam - i - ly and friend;
3 You_ hal - low our vo - ca - tions, you call us to your way;
4 For_ heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
5 Your_ ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give_ free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
the_ tor - ture and the si - lence, the fear that knows no end;
you_ shape us for your ser - vice, you the Pot - ter and the clay.
for_ love that makes us lov - ers, God_ grant us grace to mend.
your_ har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we_ are the words you speak.



The_ hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the_ work - ers claim their rights,
the_ mo - ther with her can - dle, the_ child who holds a gun,
Share with us Cre - a - tion's mold - ing; form our minds to your de - light;
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our_ faith we find in ser - vice, our_ hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the__ mourn-ers long for laugh-ter, the__ blind-ed seek for sight.
the__ old one nurs-ing ha-tred, all__ seek re-lease to come.
Might-y Craft-er of our ves-sels, fire our vi-sions with your light;
on your loom of time en-roll us till our thread of life is run.
our__ love in hand of neigh-bor; our__ home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib-er-ty a bea-con, strike down the i-ron pow'r;
Each__ can-dle burns for free-dom; each lights a ty-rant's fall,
con-se-crate your priest and peo-ple; warm the steps your saints have trod:
O greatweav-er of our fab-ric, bind__ church and world in one;
In-scribe our hearts with just-tice; your__ way, the path un-tried;



a-bol-ish an-cient ven-geance; pro-claim your peo-ple's hour.
each__ flow-er place for mar-tyrs gives_tongue to si-lenced call.
bless the bread of our en-dea-vors, bless the wine of our re-solve.
dye our tex-ture with your ra-diance, light our col-ors with your sun.
your__ truth the heart of stran-ger; your__ life, the Cru-ci-fied.

Text: *William Wila, b. 1934*

Tune: THAXTED, *Gustav Holst, 1874-1934*

APOSTLES' CREED

A Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

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

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

A brief silence.

A As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery in particular those whose names and needs we lift up now: here you may name those people and causes dear to you aloud or silently. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, especially Frank R. Howell, Pat Olinger, Christopher Fobes and Eleanor Jass, we remember leaders of the early church—Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, Phoebe—and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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.

ANTHEM

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;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:

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

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Gracious Creator, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Great is the mystery of faith.

C **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P Wondrous God, whose ways are more to be desired than gold, even much fine gold, hasten the day when those ways shall be known in all the earth. Fix your promise in the hearts of your children who suffer, that as members of your body they may never suffer alone. Let loose your praise from the lips of those who rejoice, that in your body they may never rejoice alone. Make the simplest among us the wisest in you. Revive the souls that wait on you and restore the hearts that rest in you, until eternity dawns and the voice of thanksgiving is heard through all the earth, giving glory to you, our living God, Motherly, Majestic, and Mysterious now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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

P Behold what you are. Become what you receive. The Body of Christ for the world.

C **Amen.**

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

The congregation is seated.

AGNUS DEI



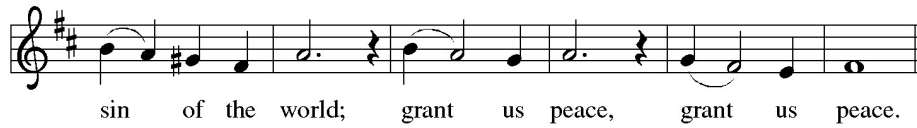
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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

ELW 314

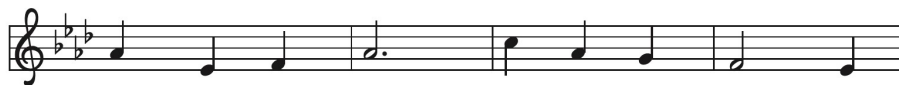
Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
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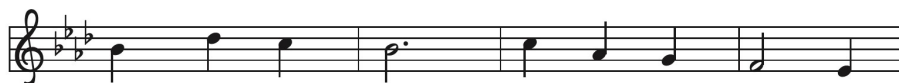
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
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 Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

TABLE BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...and bring you to everlasting life.
C Amen.

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *as needed*

- P** 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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☐ 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,

☑ Amen.

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

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing

1. Christ for the world we sing, the world to
2. Christ for the world we sing, the world to
3. Christ for the world we sing, the world to
4. Christ for the world we sing, the world to

Christ we bring, with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and
Christ we bring, with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward
Christ we bring, with one ac - cord; with us the
Christ we bring, with joy - ful song; the new - born

them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,
and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,
work to share, with us re - proach to dare,
souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.
re - deemed at count - less cost, from dark de - spair.
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.
in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

Please be seated.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 546

To Be Your Presence

1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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BLESSING

P ... now and forever.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. And we will!

POSTLUDE – “Marche”

N. Rawsthorne

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETER – Emma Chaffee

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Linda Graffius

LECTOR – C. Noelle Partusch

ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Carl Moore, Mary Mumford

VIDEO STREAMING – Beth Keller



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mark's father, Frank R. Howell, and Joyce's mother, Pat Olinger, by Joyce and Mark Howell.

Front lectern flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Christopher Fobes, on what would have been his 55th birthday on January 30, by Lois and Les Fobes.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Eleanor Jass, Cathy Beck's sister, who died January 7.

Today's Events

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held this morning following the 10:30am service. Paper copies of the Annual Report are available and also found on our website. The report was emailed earlier this week. During the meeting children and youth in grades PreK-grade 9 are invited to meet on the 5th floor for a movie and snacks.

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.

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 Tuesday (1/28) from 8-9am at Pressed Coffeeshop (8th and Greengarden).

Worship Matters!

We include the Annual Meeting of the Congregation *before* the blessing and dismissal. By doing so, we include the business and work of being Church as part of our worship. We cannot separate what we say and proclaim and sing and share in worship from the work that we are called to do as Christ's Body in the world. Indeed, in his writing about the Sacrament of Holy Communion, St. Augustine writes, "Behold what you are. Become what you receive." As St. Paul reminds us this morning, we *are* the Body of Christ, though we come from our various backgrounds, places, statuses to this place for worship and fellowship, we come as the scattered grain is gathered into one loaf we share in the Sacrament. We are brought together to be for one another and for the world the very Body of Christ. As the one loaf is then divided and shared, the Body is broken for our sake, so when we leave this place we are scattered and shared with the world for all in need. So, this Sunday, we include the business—the ho-hum, everyday, mundane, and often boring parts—of being Church each and every day as part of our worship. So that, when we are dismissed and sent "to serve the Lord," we can confidently say, "We will!"

Worship

Pastor Erin Jones will preach at our services on Sunday, February 2. She will also lead our Adult Forum at 9:15. Pastor Jones is the Communications and Advocacy Engagement Manager for Lutheran Advocacy Ministries of Pennsylvania (LAMPa). She will preach at both services as we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

Pastor Jones will also kick off our Adult Forum series on Luther Memorial's ministry partners. She will present on the current work being done by LAMPa. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a state public policy office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving the congregations, synods and Lutheran institutions in Pennsylvania, providing resources, training and information in the work of being a public church. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good. LAMPa is part of ELCA Witness in Society, whose advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Candlemas (2/2) is next Sunday! We will celebrate the end of the celebrations of the Incarnation with the remembrance of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple. This is also traditionally the day to bless the candles to be used in worship for the coming year. We want to extend this blessing into our homes as we remember Jesus as "a light to enlighten the nations."

You are invited to bring a candle from home (of any kind, color, size, scent) to be blessed during worship for you to burn in your homes in the coming year.

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

Experience Choir Sunday

On March 2 we will celebrate Transfiguration and the end of the Epiphany season. With the changing of the season I would like to extend an open invitation to everyone to "Experience Choir". Regardless of background, experience, age or ability, we will be joined by community members and past choir members to learn and refine the Anthem, Psalm, and Gospel Acclamation for Transfiguration.

With emphasis on our communal song, the choir is tasked with preparing not only an anthem, but to review all liturgical music to provide the necessary leadership on more challenging pieces enhancing the familiar and forging the way for new favorite traditions.

Rehearsals will February 20 and 27 (Thursdays) at 6:30pm on the fifth floor to prepare for worship on March 2. Sunday March 2, we gather in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for warm up and final run through. Because this will be an expanded choir with guests we will NOT be wearing robes, come as you are!

I truly hope to see many of you challenge yourselves and join us for this event. For further information, contact Cantor Bryan and he will provide you with the packet of music for Transfiguration along with links to recordings of the anthem for self review.

Lent Preparations!

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.

Palms from previous Palm Sundays are burned to create the ashes we use to mark ourselves at the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Over the coming weeks, you are invited to bring in your palms from home for the baskets on the Welcome Table near the ramp door. As always, there will be palms to replace them distributed on Palm Sunday. Thank you.

Faith Formation

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, meets the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on March 10 we will begin the book *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (Bible After Dark) will begin our 2025 gatherings 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 28 at 5:30pm in our fellowship hall. Come, enjoy, and learn what LIA is all about.

Opportunities for Fellowship

“Souper” Bowl Tasting gathering will be held Sunday, February 2 at 11:30 in fellowship hall. We invite you to whip up a batch of your favorite soup to share. Tables will be set up in fellowship hall for each different soup and everyone will have an opportunity to take a taste. Bring some soup and stop down for a taste of goodness! Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

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 look forward to seeing you on January 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

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:

Marilyn Bohn & family	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Ann Flick	Virginia Long	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes
Nancy Downey			

Friends and Family:

Cheryl Runstedler	Jenn	Norma Lynch	Norbert Ericson
Mary Lou	Phil F.	Karen Culbertson	Curtis Krick
Leigh Ann Fassnacht	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Bill
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	Jessica Reams
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Cara & Bradley Kendra	Andrew Wachter	Amy S.
Mary & Urban LaRiccia	Carol Steffey & Marissa		

Grief:

Bob Giannelli family Eleanor Jass family

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 27 – Lydia, Dorcas, Phoebe, witnesses to the faith – Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 2:7-11; Psalm 1; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:1-13 -- *Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these co-workers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.*

January 28 – Thomas Aquinas, teacher, 1274 – Wisdom 7:7-14; Psalm 37:3-6, 32-33; I Corinthians 3:5-11; Matthew 13:47-52 -- *One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.*

January 29 – Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Luke 4:38-44

January 30 – Psalm 71:1-6; II Chronicles 34:1-7; Acts 10:44-48

January 31 – Psalm 71:1-16; II Chronicles 35:20-27; Acts 19:1-10

February 1 – Psalm 71:1-6; II Chornicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group
 2:30pm LMA Play Practice
 3:15pm School Board
 5:30pm Youth & Family Dinner (LIA)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible
 6:00pm Evening Prayer Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 1:00pm Grief Group
 2:30pm LMA Play Practice
 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 11:30am LMA Dismissal

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 10:00am Quilting

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025
 THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS**

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

Adult Forum will meet at 9:15am.

“Souper” Bowl Tasting event will be held in fellowship hall.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Sarah Prylinski
Counters	10:30am	Emma Chaffee, Rob Cooney
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	