Welcome to

Luther Memorial Church

of the Erie Lutheran Parish



22 FEBRUARY 2023 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus
WALT GABER

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN
Director of Care & Health Ministries
JAN MACINNES
BETH KELLER
Youth and Family Ministry
SARAH PRYLINSKI
Youth and Family Ministry
BECKY CAREY
Interim Academy Administrator



22 FEBRUARY 2023 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

GATHERING - "The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God."

PRELUDE – "Ach, was soll ich Sünder machen?" ("What shall I, a sinner, do?")

Wilhelm Rudnick

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT – "Create a Pure Heart in Me" (from Psalm 51)

Susan Matsui (7:00pm service)

Create a pure heart in me, O Lord. Grant me a new and steadfast spirit. Do not drive me away from thy presence, or take thy Spirit from me.

Revive in me the joy of deliverance. Grant me a steady soul to uphold me. Open thou my lips, everlasting Lord, that my mouth may sing thy praises.

Thou takest no delight in sacrifice, nor hast thou any wish for whole offering. My sacrifice, Lord, is a broken soul, my offering, a contrite heart.

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, 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.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1–17 (Read in alternation.)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.



Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

²a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick fog!

Like darkness spread upon the mountains

a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,

return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,

for the Lord is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether the Lord will not turn and relent,

and leave behind a blessing

a grain offering and a drink offering

for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;

consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,

and do not make your heritage a mockery,

a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,

'Where is their God?'"

L The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with God, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For God says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,

and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!

³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

L The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

¹Jesus said to the disciples: "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord
- **©** Praise to you, O Christ.

Pastor Moran (12:00 pm service) Pastor Lundwall (7:00 pm service)

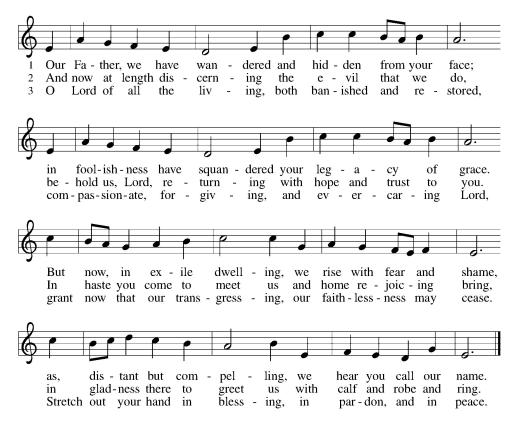
Please stand as you are able.

The author of this hymn about the Prodigal Son was a Roman Catholic priest in England. The familiar melody probably began as a secular tune, later used to set a funeral hymn text, a penitential psalm, and the familiar "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded."

It remains in secular culture, however -- Paul Simon employed it for his "American Tune" after Art Garfunkel introduced it to him via one of Bach's harmonizations.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 606

Our Father, We Have Wandered



Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612 Text © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO LENT

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most holy and merciful God,
- we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
- **ఆ** Have mercy on us, O God.
- We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
- **ఆ** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- **■** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- **■** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
- **■** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
- **■** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
- **G** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- **G** Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- **9** Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

All things of dust to dust return on earth and in the sky.

The hottest, brightest suns that burn in time grow dim and die.

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the newborn young that play, the leaves that fill the forest floor revert to dust and clay.

Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may comprehend that every moment here and now links me to that same end I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire yet by their waning light discern your own undying fire.

Lord, mark upon my brow this sign: a stark and barren cross reminding me that though divine you know my pain and loss, and at the touch of dust and ash awake my heart to view how death itself is but a flash that dies away in you.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

People may come forward and stand to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may sit, and the minister continues.

- P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- **G** that we may show forth your glory in the world.
- P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
- bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.
- P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
- C Amen.

THE PRAYERS

- A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. A brief silence.
- ⚠ O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God,
- **©** receive our prayer.
- A Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God,
- receive our prayer.

- A Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,
- **G** receive our prayer.
- A Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness. Merciful God,
- receive our prayer.
- A Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead, Luther Memorial Academy teachers and staff, our youth directors and our Sunday School directors. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God,
- **G** receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,
- receive our prayer.
- P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.
• And also with you.

- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give our thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

 Hosanna in the highest.

 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

 Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O God, Creator of our wilderness world,

O God, Savior of the lost,

O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,

we give you thanks for your everlasting might;

we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.

For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother. For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.

On the night before he died he 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.

- **P** We extol his life. Amen:
- C Amen.
- **P** We lament his death. Amen:
- C Amen.
- **P** We celebrate his resurrection. Amen:
- **G** Amen.
- P Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.

Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.

Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.

Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.

Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.

At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.

- P To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- **P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- 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. Matthew 6:9

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

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Please come forward by the center aisle.

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

Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

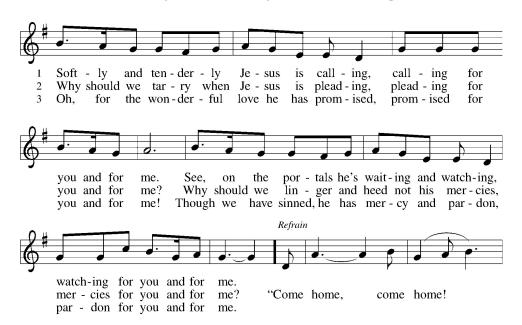
COMMUNION

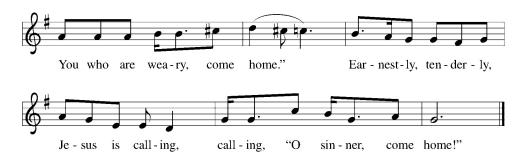
This 19th century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Luke 15:11-32, Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 608

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling





Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.
- Amen.

SENDING - "God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world."

BLESSING

- P God, the giver of love,

 ⊕ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
 and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
 bless you in this Lenten journey.
- C Amen.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve in love.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Out of the Depths I Cry to You"

Paul Kickstat

Your Ash Wednesday offering may be placed in the offering plates near the doors. Thank you.

— SERVING TODAY —

12:00 NOON SERVICE

PRESIDING MINISTER – The Rev. Brian Moran ASSISTING MINISTER – Roberta Lobaugh *LECTOR* – Linda Graffius CANTOR - Mr. Walt Gaber

7:00 PM SERVICE

PRESIDING MINISTER – The Rev. Karen Lundwall ASSISTING MINISTER - Michael Snider *LECTOR* – Les Fobes CANTOR - Mr. Walt Gaber

 \mathbf{H} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}

Thank You for gathering here in worship today. We hope you will experience personal enrichment and spiritual growth through your participation in our weekly Lenten series. No offering is received during the service; however, a collection plate has been placed by the door for the convenience of those who wish to make an offering.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor Karen Lundwall will be preaching at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and 10:30am services in the main church. The recorded service is available on Luther Memorial Church's website at www.luthermemorialonline.org and the 10:30am service is live streamed at https://www.youtube.com/@luthermemorialonline/streams.

First Holy Communion class will be held at 9:30am.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT: MARCH 1 - MARCH 29

Lenten services will be held each Wednesday in Lent at 12:05pm in the main church. Come join us in the observance of a holy Lent and be changed by the grace of God.

Topics for Weekday 12:05 Worship Service

March 1	Questions that Divide, Questions that Bind	NV.
March 8	Simple Questions	
March 15	Questions for the Curious	TF7
March 22	Questions that Change, Questions that Change You	
March 29	Questions that Kick	



Lenten luncheons will be offered for each of the five (5) Wednesdays in Lent; March 1 – March 29. The luncheons will be served at 12:35pm in fellowship hall. The cost for each meal is \$8.

March 1	Macaroni & Cheese
March 8	Pulled Pork Sandwich
March 15	Hot Chicken Salad
March 22	Stuffed Shells & Meatballs
March 29	Hamloaf

Walk to Emmaus will bring our families together each Wednesday evening throughout Lent. We will gather at 5:30pm in fellowship hall for our meal. The main dish will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish to share. Our Bible lesson and entertaining family activities will be held in our main church from 6:15 – 7:00pm. No matter your age, this evening will hold something for everyone to enjoy. Throughout the Lenten season we also encourage everyone get on the road and do that "Walk" to Emmaus. By taking care of our bodies (His temple) we glorify God and are better equipped for what he has planned for us. So put on those comfy shoes and take a few extra steps during the week.