

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



27 November 2022  
First Sunday in Advent  
10:30 am

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

# 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*



**27 NOVEMBER 2022**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Holy Communion • Light of Christ – Setting IV • 10:30**

### 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** – "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

J .G. Walther, Jacques Berthier, Paul Manz

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Lutheran Book of Worship

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☞ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

☑ **Blessed be God's name forever.**  
**Amen.**

☞ Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



**P** God of new beginnings,  
**C** we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
 We have strayed from your paths.  
 We prepare for war instead of peace.  
 We dishonor one another and your creation.  
 Purify us with your refining fire  
 and set us again on your way of love,  
 that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
 and welcome your coming among us.  
 Amen.

**P** People of God,  
 a new thing is growing in our midst,  
 a tender branch,  
 a living sign.  
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
 You have put on ☩ Christ,  
 and your sins have been washed away.  
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C** Amen.

*Text and tune for this "King of Chorales" were written by a Lutheran pastor from the German state of Saxony. The melody appears to be based on an earlier German song.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 436

### Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

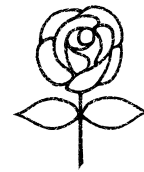
Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

## GREETING

- P** From the one who is and who was and who will come,  
 and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection,  
 grace and peace be with you all.
- C** And also with you.



## KYRIE

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord.                      [A] For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God,            and for the u - ni - ty of all,            let us pray to the

Lord.                      [A] For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] Help, save,    com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

[C] A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] Let us pray.

[C] **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- 📖 Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.  
You fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.  
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.  
We ask that peace abound,  
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

📖 Amen.



*The first candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Sue Cappelletty; prayer by Jeana Williams.*

### Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.

*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob’s God, who will teach us the ways of God, that we may walk in the paths of the Lord.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>God shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 122** (*Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.*)



<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”  
<sup>2</sup>Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;  
<sup>4</sup>to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.  
<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David. **R**  
<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.  
<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.  
<sup>8</sup>For brethren and companions' sake,  
I pray for your prosperity.  
<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek to do you good.” **R**



*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn.  
We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

**SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires..

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Refrain:** *(Sung once by the choir, repeated by the congregation and repeated after the verse.)*



*Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.  
(Psalm 85:7)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

¶ Jesus said to the disciples, ¶ <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son-of-Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son-of-Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, the owner would have stayed awake and would not have let the house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son-of-Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Lundwall

*Please stand as you are able.*



*Text for this hymn is the work of a distinguished priest in the Anglican Church of Canada.  
The tune is taken from the composer's orchestral work The Planets.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 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.  
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,  
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.  
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;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;  
a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

## NICENE CREED

**A** With the whole church let us confess our faith

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.



**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

**A** As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth, as well as in Ukraine, Ethiopia, and all places experiencing violence. We pray for healing for those affected by recent violence in Erie, Colorado Springs, and the University of Idaho. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** You guide us in all times of our lives. In this time of pastoral transition at Luther Memorial Church, strengthen all congregational members and leaders to hold firmly onto the promises of the Gospel, and continually give this congregation your wisdom and guidance. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*



**A** God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you, especially Marie and Gottfried Bitzer. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.** *Romans 16:16*

*You are invited to greet those around you in your pew with a word or a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated.*

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

### **THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

*“Jesus said, truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”*

*Luke 21: 3-4*

**ANTHEM – “Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

Marty Haugen

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.*

*Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold the Child of our longing.*

*Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,*

*He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,*

*His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;*

*Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,*

*The thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.*

*In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,*

*As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.*

*Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,*

*The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,*

*The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.*

*Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;*

*may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.*

*Please stand as you are able.*



## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Eternal God,  
 you make the desert bloom  
 and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
 Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
 and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
 for all in need of your healing and justice.  
 We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**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.

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the





## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

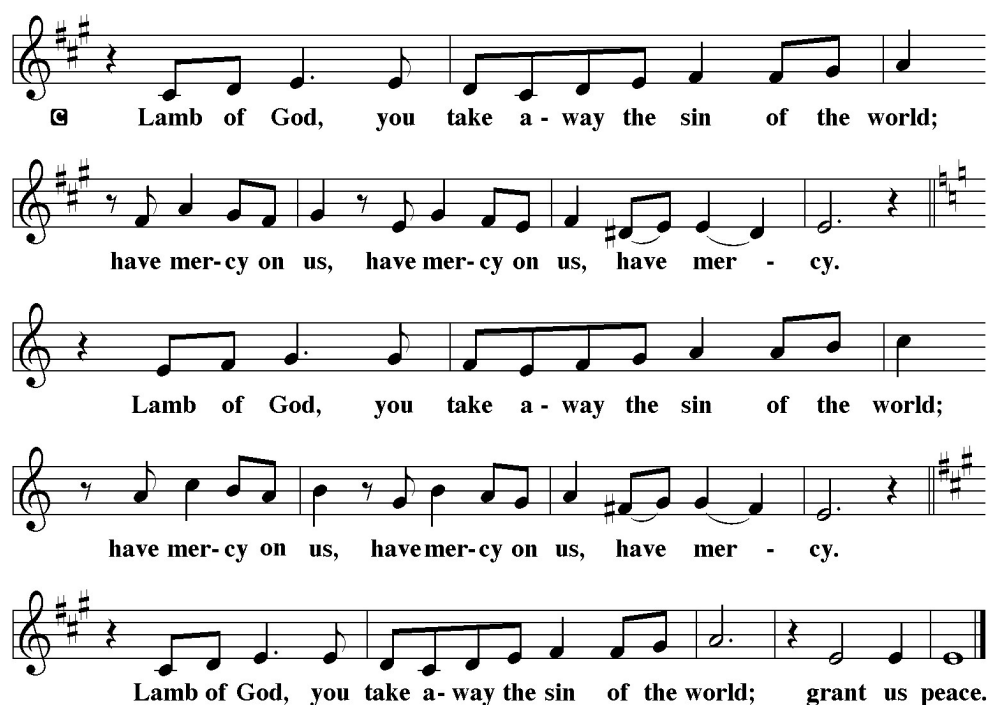
☑ **Amen.**

☐ 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**

## AGNUS DEI



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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**C** Amen.

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

*The congregation is seated.*

## SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

*O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread. Lutheran Book of Worship*

## COMMUNION

*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.*

*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 located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font.*

*Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray.*

*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.*

*This text is from the pen of an English clergyman who, in addition to serving several congregations during his life, edited and published three books of hymnody, of which one was an influential work.*

*The tune was composed by a highly accomplished English musician, conductor, and editor.*

## HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 714

### O God of Mercy, God of Light



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

**BLESSING**

**P** God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Text for this hymn was written by an Episcopal priest in response to a request from the Episcopal Church. The author of many hymns, he was also executive director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. The tune is the work of a gifted English lecturer and teacher and a masterly writer on musical subjects, also regarded highly as a composer. The present tune was written to accompany a poem by William Blake; the combination is still heard at many public occasions in England. It also appears in a celebrated recording by Emerson, Lake and Palmer.*

**SENDING HYMN**

**ELW 711**

**O Day of Peace**



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de-vour the small;



guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.  
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,  
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918  
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE**

**A** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE – "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"**

Lynn Trapp, Wilhelm Rudnick

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— SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING* – Pastor Karen Lundwall

*GREETERS* – Cathy Beck, Pat Gilbert

*ACOLYTES* – Marshall & Mitchell Boyd

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Liz Stroup

*LECTOR* – Pat Gilbert

*USHERS* – Cathy Beck, Linda Graffius, Elvin Montero, Carl Moore

*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Marie and Gottfried Bitzer by Ann Louise Bitzer.

**Today's Events**

**Hanging of the Greens** will get everyone in the Christmas spirit this morning following each service. Join us for the fun of decorating our church for the Christmas season.

**Offering envelopes** for 2023 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

**Desk calendars**, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, for 2023 are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

**Worship**

**We are returning** to the use of the pouring chalice during the distribution of communion. When you come forward by the center aisle, take a small empty cup from the tray at the head of the center aisle. Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font. The assisting minister will pour the wine into your cup from the pouring chalice. Place the empty cup on the trays at the side aisle.

**The Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

**Stewardship**

**Commitment forms** are in your bulletins this morning. We ask that you prayerfully consider how to participate in the coming year's ministry through worship offerings. Your commitment is not only helpful to the church council in the ministry planning process but they also are helpful to each of us as we budget the use of our resources. With the assurance of God's continuing love and Grace, joyfully submit your commitment by placing it in the offering plate. Thank you.

**Music Ministry**

**The Presque Isle Ringers** is a new community handbell ensemble comprised of ringers from the Erie area. Two members of the Luther Memorial handbell choir are charter members of this ensemble - **Barb Moore and Jeanne Gaber**. Their first concert will consist of holiday music "that will be sure to put you in the spirit of the season." The ringers will be joined by the **McDowell Vocal Ensemble** including a sing-along with *the Presque Isle Ringers*. The performance will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church (3642 W. 26th St., Erie, PA), at 2:00pm on December 4. The concert is free and open to the public and parking is available behind the church. You are requested to enter via the back doors adjacent to the parking lot.

### **Christian Education**

**Children's Church** for PreK – grade 6 will meet Sunday, December 11 from 9:30 – 10:15am and will continue to gather the second Sunday of each month. Our youth in grades 7 - 12 will continue meeting on the third Sunday of the month.

**Teachers** and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Holiday Bingo** fun is all set for Sunday, December 4. Doors will open at 12:00 noon; play will be held from 12:30 – 4:00pm in our fellowship hall. Eight games of Bingo will be played with cash prizes. Join us for excitement and mystery Chinese auction, tip boards and much more. Tickets are \$20 and available from Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski or the church office. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. Christmas is just around the corner so join us December 13 for some festive knitting and crocheting. We will not gather on Tuesday, December 27. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** Christmas party will be held Wednesday, December 14 in the parlor. Our celebration will be held from 11:30am – 1:30pm with caroling, games and lots of fun enjoying the holiday season. The main dish and dessert for lunch will be provided; we are asking that everyone bring a side dish to share. In lieu of a gift exchange, a collection will be taken towards Lutheran World Relief. Please RSVP to the church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or Jan MacInnes by Friday, December 9.

**OWLS** are doing some long range planning for a very special event on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. A Valentine's Day luncheon will be held at the Convention Center from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge and parking is free. Only a certain number of reservations are accepted by the Convention Center and these fill up very quickly. Reservations are due by Thursday, December 15. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with your RSVP. Thank you.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

**ONP, Our Neighbor's Place**, supports the homeless community in the evenings of the coldest months from November 16, 2022 – April 4, 2023. The hours are from 7:00pm – 7:00am in three shifts of 4 hours each. This year it will take place at several different church locations. Please consider being a part of this needed outreach as it happens only through the efforts of very dedicated volunteers. Please contact Randy Dehn; [Randall.dehn@yahoo.com](mailto:Randall.dehn@yahoo.com) or 814-323-3723 or Diane Bestvina; [dl.bestvina@gmail.com](mailto:dl.bestvina@gmail.com) or 814-796-4047 with all your questions and we will be happy to answer them. There are information pages at the welcome table as well as a sign up sheet. We look forward to being a partner with you in this very rewarding ministry.

**Family Christmas Dinner** will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year that St. Matthew's began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need and we now continue to share that Christmas spirit. Donations of cookies are appreciated and can be dropped off in the church office through December 13. Please feel free to contact our church office with any questions. Thank you.

**"Kids for Kids"** annual collection will take place through Sunday, December 4. All money collected will be used to help families at Luther Memorial and Luther Memorial Academy in need during the Christmas season. Monetary donations are appreciated and may be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plates marked "Kids for Kids". Our youth, with the guidance of our youth leaders, Beth Keller and Sarah Prylinski, will shop for gifts at their Christmas Extravaganza. Thank you.

### **Christmas is A-comin'**

**Holiday cookie tasting** will be held Sunday, December 4 in the parlor following each service. Some of these delicious treats are only made during the Christmas season so please join us for some yummy goodness. Donations of cookies are appreciated and can be dropped off in the church office during the week or Sunday morning.

**St Lucia Festival** will be held Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm in our main church. All youth and young children are invited to participate in this traditional Swedish program which begins our holiday season. We are excited to offer this beautiful program again this year and look forward to our children taking part. Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations.

**Blue Christmas Service** will be offered Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00pm in our main church. For many the holidays are a difficult time, and we invite you to join us for this special holiday service to hear a message of hope and love. The service will be live streamed on [www.YouTube/LutherMemorialChurch,Erie,PA](http://www.YouTube/LutherMemorialChurch,Erie,PA) and will also be available on our website at [www.luthermemorialonline.org](http://www.luthermemorialonline.org) the following day.

**Christmas Dinner** will be delicious and easy when you pop a Gahr's Hamloaf in the oven. Orders will be accepted through Sunday, December 4, with pick-up following church services on Sunday, December 18. Order forms are located at the welcome table and in the church and school offices. Cost is \$5 for a 1 lb. hamloaf and \$8 for 2 lbs. Guaranteed to satisfy your tastebuds.

### **Youth News**

**Christmas Extravaganza** will be a blast on Friday, December 2. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join in the fun from 5:30 – 9:30pm. We'll have a super Christmassy time wrapping gifts, watching a movie, munching on yummy snacks while helping to make Christmas extra-special for families in need. Food will be provided. RSVP to Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Prylinski or the church office by Wednesday, November 30.

### **Luther Memorial Church Policy**

**Masking** at Luther Memorial Church is now optional.

### **In Case of Emergency**

**In case of an emergency** please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.



## C A L E N D A R

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

LMA Closed

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**    6:00pm

LMA Legos

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1**    5:30pm  
6:30pm

Handbell Rehearsal  
Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2**    10:00am  
5:30pm

Balance Class  
Christmas Extravaganza

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Michael Snider** will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

**Holiday cookie tasting** will be held following each service.

**Holiday Bingo** will be held from 12:30 – 4:00pm. Doors open at 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Roberta Lobaugh
	10:30am	Emma Chaffee
Lay Distributor	8:15am	Jan MacInnes
	10:30am	Ann Flick
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Linda Graffius, Jeff Swanson
Counters	10:30am	Mark Howell, Betty Pletz

## — PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Jan & Skip MacInnes	C. Noelle Partusch	Jane Kinzig	Chickie Braine
Dave Parsh	Walt Gaber	Mark Howell	John Downey
Friends and Family:			
Amy Daugherty	Marie Checkley	Tammy Fuller	Linda F.
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Sue O'Mahony
Edie Jackman	Melissa Geiser	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Brittani H.	Tom McGrail	Meghan Kessler
Susan Brooks	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Elise VanDamia			
Grief:			
Bob Sadowski Family	Marilyn Schultz family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			