

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



28 SEPTEMBER 2025
LMA SUNDAY
10:30 am

WELCOME!

This is the day that the Lord has made. Together, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The Luther Memorial Church and Academy are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people. These lands were ceded by the people of the Six Nations on October 22, 1784 in a treaty ratified by the United States Government in 1785 and never ratified by the people of the Six Nations. We gather in this place indebted to these peoples for their forced generosity. While some peoples were successful in resisting assimilation and genocide, and still live on dwindled homelands now, many were absorbed into other peoples, exiled, or annihilated by the United States government for their land. For those who remain and for the land on which we gather, we give thanks to the Creator and to those who have been custodians of this part of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Luther Memorial Academy opened its doors in September, 1976, with one Kindergarten class. A grade was added each year and the first eighth grade graduation took place in 1985. We have developed an outstanding reputation in Erie for academic excellence, strong values, and community spirit. Our goals are to provide, in a Christian atmosphere, a high-quality education; to develop the child's full potential; to encourage special interests and abilities; and to have an atmosphere of courtesy and respect which leads to healthy discipline.

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today: Almost everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You are invited to stand as you are able where indicated. Hymns are included in this bulletin, however if you need larger print, hymns may be found in the back of the red hymnal using the number indicated (#). Please join in singing all the music! Today especially we raise our voices in praise!

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!** You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to check in and let your friends know where you are!

~ We welcome all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).

~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

+ + +

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE – "Beach Spring"

A. K. Organ

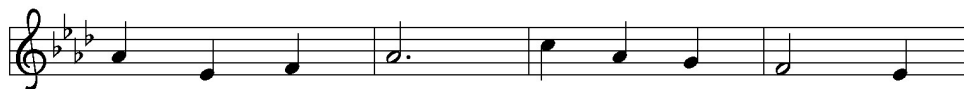
WELCOME FROM PASTOR JAY

Please rise in body or spirit

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 731

Earth and All Stars!



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete and band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

OPENING SENTENCE

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's reign now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME FROM MRS. THOM

HYMN OF PRAISE

LMA Students will sing the first verse. The congregation is invited to share in the second and third verses.



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

LMA SCHOOL PRAYER

Let us pray.

God, be above me to protect me.

God, be in front of me to guide me.

God, be beside me to befriend me.

God, be behind me to encourage me.

God, be in my head and in my learning.

God, be in my hands and in my helping.

God, be in my feet and in my walking.

God, be in my heart and in my loving.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6, 9-12a (*Jaiyana DeBoe, Lovaiyah House*)

Lady Wisdom has built and furnished her home; it's supported by seven hewn timbers. The banquet meal is ready to be served: lamb roasted, wine poured out, table set with silver and flowers. Having dismissed her serving maids, Lady Wisdom goes to town, stands in a prominent place, and invites everyone within sound of her voice: "Are you confused about life, don't know what's going on? Come with me, oh come, have dinner with me! I've prepared a wonderful spread—fresh-baked bread, roast lamb, carefully selected wines. Leave your impoverished confusion and *live!* Walk up the street to a life with meaning. if you correct those who care about life, they'll love you for it! Save your breath for the wise—they'll be wiser for it; tell good people what you know—they'll profit from it. Skilled living gets its start in the Fear-of-God, insight into life from knowing a Holy God. It's through me, Lady Wisdom, that your life deepens, and the years of your life ripen. Live wisely and wisdom will permeate your life."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM: PSALM 90:12-17** *TUNE: ST. ANNE*

So teach us, Lord, in your great might, to number all our days,
that we may yet apply our hearts to Wisdom and her ways.

Relent and have compassion, Lord; let Wisdom's love hold sway.
Come, satisfy us with your love with each returning day.

Lord, let us now be glad and sing your praises constantly;
let happiness now compensate for years of misery.

Lord, let the splendor of your works shine brightly as the sun;
may all God's wisdom rest on us; prosper what we have done.

SECOND READING: I Timothy 4:11-15 (*Lucia Goellner*)

Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.*Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel.***GOSPEL: Luke 2:40-52** (*Zayda Montano-Daniels, Maliyah Solano*)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Mary and Joseph had taken Jesus to the Temple and were blessed by Simeon, when they had finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There Jesus grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him. Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to

them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt. His mother said, “Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you.” He said, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?” But they had no idea what he was talking about. So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

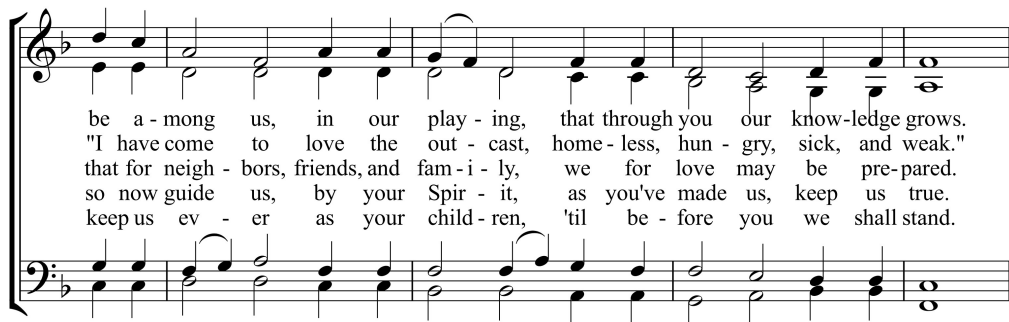
**CHILD OF GOD AND SOURCE OF WISDOM
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY ANNIVERSARY HYMN**

In celebration of our Golden Anniversary Year, this hymn text was written by The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell based on Luke 2:52, Psalm 90:12, Psalm 36:9. The hymn weaves the story of the boy Jesus in the Temple with our own learning today, seeing Jesus as the source of Wisdom.

Child of God and source of Wis - dom, be our fu - ture as our past.
Child of Ma - ry, God as child, to the eld - ers you were kind,
Child of Heav - en, still a child, still you grew in age and height.
Child of Earth en - throned in heav - en, we who now your I - mage bear:
Child of God and source of Wis - dom, mov - ing for - ward from our past,

O - pen to us worlds of know - ing, fill our minds with vi - sions vast.
still you taught them all they need - ed, through your teach - ing op' - ning minds.
E - ven like us, with all Wis - dom, sought to share with us God's light.
hold us, help us, list - en to us, we who lift to you our prayer.
you walk with us, help - ing, teach - ing, in - to fu - tures blest and vast.

You come to us, young and hum - ble, from your heart cre - a - tion flows,
Child of Naz' - reth, stu - dent, rab - bi, in your words we hear God speak,
For us, in us, by us, through us, may we al - so God's light share,
As you've guid - ed gen - er - a - tions, learn - ing, grow - ing, shaped by you,
In our learn - ing, in our grow - ing, in our play - ing, in your plan,



Tune: BEACH SPRING: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985.; arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

**OPENING OF THE 2025-2026 GOLDEN ACADEMIC YEAR
with INSTALLATION OF STUDENT COUNCIL, INSTALLATION OF SCHOOL BOARD, and
INSTALLATION OF FACULTY AND STAFF**

O God, everything you do is wonderful, and I know it well.

Teach us your ways, O God.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path.

Teach us your ways, O God.

Jesus said, Let the children come to me.

Teach us your ways, O God.

Installation of Student Council

Council Members, you have been elected by your peers to serve as leaders at LMA. You have been given responsibility to not only speak up for yourselves, but for your fellow students, too. You have dedicated yourselves to help when needed and to represent LMA outside of school. Are you willing to do this?

Yes.

You have agreed to regularly meet together to talk about the needs of the students and of LMA as a whole. In so doing, you must be respectful of many viewpoints and ideas and work together for the whole school. Are you willing to do this?

Yes.

Finally, you are meant to be leaders, but leaders do not lead without a community. Are you willing to listen to your fellow students; to be kind and helpful and to encourage others to get involved in the community?

Yes.

Then, I officially install you as the Student Council of Luther Memorial Academy for the 2025-2026 Golden Academic Year. May God bless your work.

Amen.

Installation of School Board

School Board Members, you have been chosen to serve the LMA Community. You each possess great gifts from God and are called to use them to the good of all. You have also each, now been given great responsibility to serve this community. Will you use your gifts, as God gives you ability and as this community has need?

We will.

In your service on the School Board, you are to listen and learn, to challenge and grow, and to share in the love of God that this community seeks to share with our students. You are to advise and help, to participate and attend, and to be open to the ways you are called to use your gifts here. Will you, with God's help, commit to this service?

We will.

While your service is to this community, it is not to only focus inward on our needs directly. You are to speak of LMA well and share widely of the good being done here. You are to invite and encourage others to know the great ministry being done here through education and learning, through service and challenge, through fun and play. Are you willing to share all that is done here with the wider community?

We will.

I officially install you as the 2025-2026 School Board for Luther Memorial Academy. May God bless you richly as you share your gifts with us.

Amen.

Installation of Teachers

Teachers, you are entrusted with great responsibility and, we hope, with great joy in caring for and teaching our children. But you do not do it alone. I invite you to turn and face the assembly.

LMA Students, I invite you to stand. Will you try your hardest this year to learn and grow, to be kind and honest, helpful and happy?

We will.

LMA Parents, I invite you to stand. Will you support our teachers, at home with your children as they learn and grow and here at LMA with events and activities?

We will.

Luther Memorial members, I invite you to stand. Will you continue to pray for and encourage our entire LMA community as they together learn and play, grow and flourish in the coming year?

We will.

Teachers, you may turn around. Will you give wholly of yourselves to your charge: to foster the growth of our children in body, mind, and spirit? Will you play with and cheer them on? Will you take time for your own growth and renewal?

We will.

May almighty God who has given you the will to do these things, bless you with the ability to fulfill them.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Let us pray. O God, source of all goodness: we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless Luther Memorial Academy, that we may be a place of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that our teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life; through Jesus Christ, your Wisdom Incarnate.

Amen.

We begin this academic year in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence.

God, bless your Church that bishops, pastors, and deacons lead your people faithfully and that all of us may proclaim the Good News in our daily lives. Lord, in your mercy, *(Elijah Deboe)*

hear our prayer.

God, bless people who are sick or suffering in any way, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now: _____. Lord, in your mercy, *(Ajak Mayen)*

hear our prayer.

God, bless Luther Memorial Academy, especially our teachers and staff: Michelle, Amanda, Meaghan, Katie, Beth, Deborah, Karen, Grace, Ciara, Amy, Caryn, A.J., Kim, Rebecca, Braxton, Heidi, Stephanie, Jody, Ellen, Julie and Gretchen. Guide our School Board, Maria, Preeya, Heather, Susan, Jason, Isela, Les, Greg, A.J., Miriam, M.J. and Pastor Jay as they make important decisions. Inspire our PTL Board, Leah, Mindy, Paula, Danielle and Natalie as they plan fun and fellowship. Journey with our alumni wherever they may be. May the year ahead be full of growth, and challenge, and fun. Lord, in your mercy, *(Mitchell Boyd)*

hear our prayer.

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed, especially C. Richard and Dorothy. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. Lord in your mercy, *(Liam Wickles)*
hear our prayer.

God, we give you all these prayers and everything else you know we need and we thank you for hearing, through Jesus. *(Amelia Jaskiewicz)*
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you. Please be seated.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL TO CATHY MACGREGOR

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen.

You stretched out the heavens like a tent; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and building up. You blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, mother of our Lord; Peter, James, John, and all the apostles; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

We give you thanks, O God, as we dedicate this tree and display case to your glory and praise and in loving memory of Mrs. Cathy MacGregor. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 this morning goes to the ongoing work of Luther Memorial Church and Academy. Using the envelopes in the pew racks, you may designate a particular ministry you would like to support. 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.

OFFERTORY – "Neno Lake Mungu"

A. K. Organ

Please rise in body or spirit as the gifts are presented.

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*William Bowden*)

Let us pray.

Thank you, God, for everything you have given us. We give back just a little of what we have received from you. Use these gifts and us to bless the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we give you thanks, God. We join with all of your creation: sun and moon and stars; birds and plants and our pets; with our parents and grandparents and best friends and we say thank you.

We thank you for all the ways you have shown your love to us: for our parents and those who take care of us, for our teachers and pastors and people who teach us, for our coaches and mentors who help us to grow up. We also thank you for the people in the Bible stories we tell.

We especially thank you for Jesus. He showed us your love and he also taught us how to love one another like you love us. One way he showed us your love was having a meal with his friends. At that meal, he took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his friends and said: Take this, my friends, and eat it. This is my body and it's given for you. Do this when you remember me. He also took a cup and gave it to his friends to share and said, take this, friends, and drink some of it. This cup is a new promise from God for you to let you know that your sins are forgiven. Whenever you share this drink, remember me.

And still today when we share bread and a cup, we remember not just that one time Jesus shared this meal, but that Jesus is here with us now and everywhere. And for that we are so thankful.

Our thanks we give to you, O God, along with our honor and respect and love and when we give that to you we join our voices and our hearts with all those who have come before us and with all your angels and say:

Thank you, Amen.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Whenever we share this bread and cup, Jesus is here. Come to the table!

One is Holy; One is Lord: Jesus Christ to the glory of God. Amen.

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

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! 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. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; 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.*

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
 3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
 known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
 chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
 sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Donavan Rosendary, Raistlin Thomas)*

Let us pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *if needed*

ANNOUNCEMENTS*Please stand as you are able.***BLESSING**

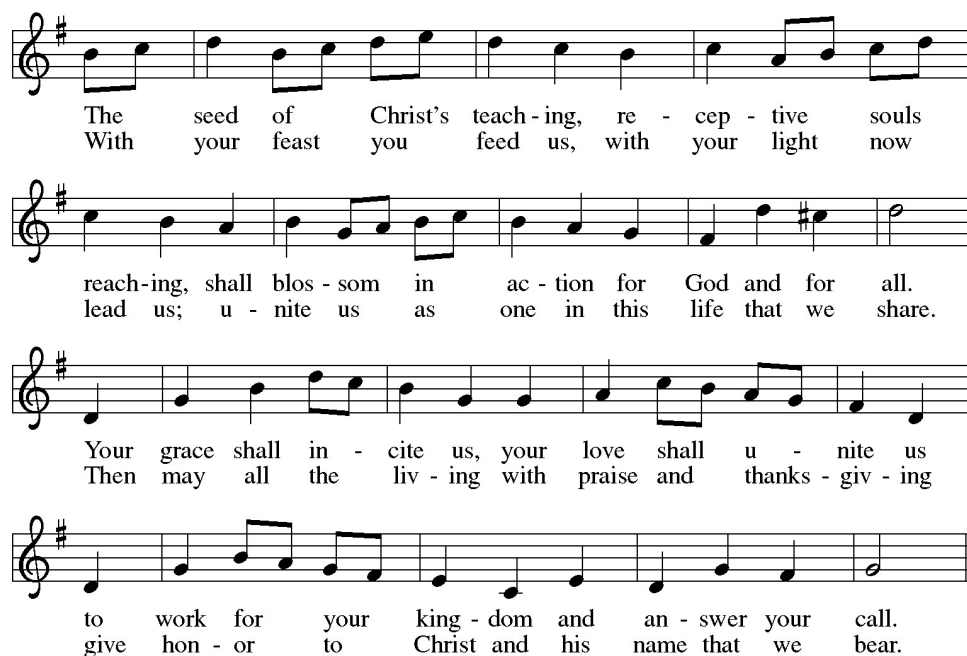
...now and forever.

*LMA Students, along with alumni, faculty, and staff will sing the School Song which will directly lead into the Sending Hymn which all are invited to sing. Students will process out to the School Office Hallway...all are invited to follow as we sing.***LMA SCHOOL SONG** (words by Cheryl Lucht, former LMA teacher)

*Our voices we are raising
in songs ever praising
to Luther Memorial our tribute we give.
Your truth and your honor
we wear as a banner
learning to serve well as long as we live.
The ideals will be forever.
Your gifts will sustain us ever.
We'll cherish each blessing
and mem'ry so dear.
God's blessing is o'er us,
he e'er watches o'er us,
as forward we travel
the paths far and near.*

SENDING HYMN**ELW 547****Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing
to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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DISMISSAL (*Kamen Konzell*)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Jubilate"

N. Rawsthorne

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— SERVING TODAY —

PREACHING – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETERS – Henry Whiteman, Jaileele Williams

CRUCIFER – Mitchell Boyd

BANNER BEARER – Jack Bartlett

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

GIFT BEARERS – Carson Duranseau, Jazmariah Reyes

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Kate Martin, Linda Graffius

USHERS – Jonathan DiSano, Ajak Mayen, Cameron Parraway, Braxton Yoder

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider



Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the teachers, staff and students of Luther Memorial Academy by Mrs. Susan Belott and Mrs. Pat Young, former administrator and secretary of LMA.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Luther Memorial Academy's 50 years of excellence in learning by Carol and Bob Davidson.

Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of C. Richard Overberg and Dorothy Overberg by their family.

The faculty, staff, and administration of Luther Memorial Academy are grateful you've joined us to celebrate LMA Sunday! This tradition is an important part of beginning each school year - especially this year, as it is our 50th academic year with the theme, "Reflecting 50 Golden Years, Shining Bright for the Future!"

Please join us in the parlor for refreshments following worship this morning. Thank you to our PTL for providing this time of fellowship.

Today's Events

Crop Walk will take place this afternoon at Presque Isle with registration at 1:00pm and the walk beginning at 2:00pm. The Walk will begin at Beach 1. Luther Memorial (both Church **and** Academy) will have a shared Team as part of LMA Sunday celebrations. It's not too late to walk and join in this 50th Anniversary Celebration of the CROP Walk. If you are unable to walk, consider making a donation to someone who is walking.

Confirmation students will be walking at the CROP Walk this afternoon. Classes will continue to meet each Sunday through October 12 from 11:45am – 2:00pm with lunch provided. Youth will be confirmed Sunday, October 26 at the 10:30am service.

Worship

LIVESTREAMERS ARE NEEDED! Recently, a few of our services have not been livestreamed and therefore not available to our homebound members. This is due to scheduling conflicts and volunteer availability. We need a robust rotation of livestreamers which involves tending the camera in the choir loft during our 10:30am worship service and our main worship services on feast days (such as Christmas Eve or Ash Wednesday). All ages are welcome to take on this vital leadership role in our communal worship. If you are interested in what this would entail and/or would like to sign up, please speak with Cantor Bryan or Pastor Jay.

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. The Women, Infants, and Children Act (WIC) was first piloted in 1972. The program provides nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on healthy eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services. Earlier this year, when WIC was on the brink of being gutted, it was the voices of Bread for the World members that helped convince our lawmakers to allocate an increase of \$500 million to this life-saving program, rather than make more drastic cuts. Because of compassionate, faithful people like you, WIC will be there to help mothers raise healthy and nourished babies.

At Luther Memorial on October 12, 2025, we will be participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. Following worship you will have the opportunity to write your own letter to Rep. Mike Kelly, urging him to co-sponsor the Modern WIC Act, which will make it easier for women, infants, and children to receive much-needed nutritional support. Sample letters will be available along with fact sheets, paper, pens, and maybe even some real bread to eat! Letters will be hand-delivered to Rep. Kelly's Erie office. You may also choose to email your letter.

For more information about Bread for the World, visit www.bread.org.

Bishop Installation

Bishop Kristen Papson, a daughter of Luther, will be installed as Bishop by The Rev. Yehiel Curry, V Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, on Sunday, 19 October at 3:30pm at Good Hope, Oil City. All are invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like a seat on the bus leaving from Luther's parking lot at 1:30pm, please let the church office know by Sunday, September 28. Space is limited and is first-come-first-served. Cost is \$5 per person.

As we prepare for Bishop Papson's Installation (you've gotten that memo, yeah?), it has been suggested that Luther collect for a Purse to celebrate the occasion. As a daughter of Luther Memorial Church and a graduate of Luther Memorial Academy, Bishop Papson's election to Bishop is not just historic for the NWPA Synod but a momentous point of pride for our congregation. And we should celebrate! If you are able to contribute to a purse for her Installation, please place your donation in an envelope marked for Bishop Papson's Purse in the offering plate or drop it off to the church office during hours by Monday, October 13. Thank you!

Faith Formation for All Ages

Bibles will be presented to children in third grade on All Saints' Sunday, November 2, during the 10:30am service. Please contact Norma in the church office by Monday, October 20 if your son and/or daughter are in third grade so a Bible can be prepared for them. Thank you.

Brown Bag Bible (B³) gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. You do not need the book to participate, but if you would like a copy of the book, it is \$15 to the church office.

Bible After Dark (BAD) is coming! Mark your calendars for our first BAD gathering of the year! We will meet on the FIRST TUESDAY (note day change) of each month at 6:30pm at Calimari's Squid Row (1317 State St) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We will be using Josh Scott's book *Parables: Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place*. If you would like to order your book from the church office, the cost is \$15. You may also order your own. If you've already ordered a book, they are in the office for pickup (and payment as needed). **YOU** are invited to join us! October's gathering is Tuesday, October 7.

Sunday School for Pre-K through 5th Grade begins on October 12 and every 2nd Sunday! **LYO** will also meet during this time. Acolyte training will also be available on these Sundays.

Dine Out for Our Youth

Enjoy dinner at the Texas Roadhouse, 7475 Peach Street, this Thursday, October 2 and support our youth, too. Our youth will receive 10% of your total food purchase; dine-in or to-go. Stop in from 3:00 – 9:00pm for a delicious meal and take the night off from the kitchen. Flyers are available at the welcome tables and must be presented when ordering.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Oktoberfest, our annual delicious feast, will be held Sunday, October 5 at 11:30am in fellowship hall. The main course of bratwurst & sauerkraut, hotdogs and macaroni & cheese will be served, as well as beverages. All are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Raise your glasses and cheer – Oktoberfest! RSVP to the church office by tomorrow, Monday, September 29.

Second Sunday Soirée will be offered on Sunday, October 12 at 9:15am in parlor. Please join us for a brief time of conversation, and some snacks, too.

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon; October 14 and October 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Trunk-or-Treat with family and friends on Sunday, October 26. Dress in costume, decorate your car, load it up with some treats and let the fun begin. Set-up in the church parking lot will begin at 1:00 noon. Treating will be held from 1:30-2:30pm. Music by DJ Bill Mason, prizes, a costume parade, and of course, treats will make this a super fun day. Please see Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski or contact the church office to sign up to decorate your car.

Prayer Shawls

Healing takes place in many ways and the gift of a prayer shawl provides comfort and a source of healing for many. If you know of someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl made by our "knitters of Luther Memorial" please contact Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476, Linda Graffius at 814-440-5458 or the church office and one will be prepared for you.

Julia House

Julia's Cash Bash will be held Saturday, October 4 from 5:00 – 9:00pm at St. Francis Usher Club, 9085 Main Street in McKean. Your \$30 ticket includes full dinner, dessert, coffee/soda and entry for cash prize drawings. The evening is complete with a silent auction, basket raffle, tips, cash bar and music. Proceeds will help build Julia House, Erie County's first free-standing hospice house and palliative care clinic. Tickets are available by contacting Linda Graffius at 814-440-5458 or Cathy Beck at 814-450-4833.

Items to Note

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.

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.

From the Academy

Luther Memorial Academy is so very grateful to our church family for the continued support and some recent facility upgrades that have taken place in the past few months - new carpeting throughout our classrooms and offices, hand-painted crosses that hang in each of our rooms, plus the addition of the electronic digital sign installed on the corner of 10th and Sassafras Streets. These changes prioritize student and teacher comfort, health, and engagement.

Pastor Jay, we are so very blessed by your leadership - providing spiritual guidance to the school community, leading us in weekly chapel service, participating in school activities, supporting administration, and engaging the LMA community. Thank you!

We are also very appreciative to those who have served on our School Board so faithfully. This year we will see School Board president, John Bartlett, rotate off after over 7 years of service and Shannon McAdoo, who has given over 20 years of dedicated service, finish her term. We are fortunate, however, that Shannon continues volunteering at LMA as the overall IT and Chromebook extraordinaire expert. Our deepest gratitude goes to John and Shannon.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Dorothy Youngman	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Jeff Monroe
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Debbie Cesnick	Sherry Giles
Norma Davidson	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Pat Lupo
Linda F.	Joel	Debbie Betit	Haven Schaefer
Grief:			
Dave Parsh family	Woodard family	Koscinski family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

Readings and Commemoration This Week

September 29 – Michael and All Angels – Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3; Psalm 103:1-5, 202-22; Revelation 12:7-12; Luke 10:17-20 -- *Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.*

September 30 – Jerome, translator, teacher, 420 – Psalm 62; Hosea 10:9-15; James 5:1-6 -- *Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.*

October 1 – Psalm 62; Hosea 12:2-14; Matthew 19:16-22

October 2 – Psalm 37:1-9; II Kings 18:1-8, 28-36; Revelation 2:8-11

October 3 – Psalm 37:1-9; II Kings 19:8-20, 35-37; Revelation 2:12-29

October 4 – Francesco d'Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226 – Isaiah 37:1-9; Isaiah 7:1-9; Matthew 20:29-34 -- *Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation. **also: Theodor Fliedner, renewer of the society, 1864** -- *Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.**



C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	11:45am	Pizza with the Principal & Pator
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30		Newsletter Mailing
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1		
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2	12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
	1:00pm	Grief Support Group
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3		
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4		Quilting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

Adult Forum will be offered at 9:15am. Come hear from Bethesda Lutheran Services about the amazing work being down in our own community!

Oktoberfest will be celebrated at 11:30am.

Confirmation Class for youth in grade 10 at 11:45am.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
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	Beth Keller
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Stan Rose
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Karen Lundwall

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Welcome to the 50th annual Luther Memorial Academy Sunday. We gather as a school family to worship and celebrate LMA's continued educational mission to the Erie community.

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY STAFF

FACULTY

MS. MEAGHAN WOOD, *Kindergarten*
MRS. KATIE ROMBA, *First Grade*
MRS. BETH KELLER, *Second Grade*
MS. DEBORAH BARGER, *Third Grade*
MRS. KAREN SOCASH, *Fourth Grade*
MISS GRACE LENTZ, *Fifth Grade*
MISS CIARA ADAMS, *Sixth Grade*
MS. AMY GILEWICZ, *Seventh Grade*
MS. CARYN CHLUDZINSKI, *Eighth Grade*
MRS. REBECCA MCCORMICK, *Spanish*
MR. BRAXTON BEAULIEU, *Music*
MRS. A.J. NOYES, *Health, Physical Education, Community Outreach*

LIBRARY

MRS. KIM EVANS, *Librarian*
MRS. JULIE BALDWIN, *Library Aide*
MRS. REBECCA MCCORMICK, *Library Aide*
MRS. GRETCHEN WOLFORD, *Library Aide*

ADMINISTRATION

MRS. MICHELLE THOM, *Principal*
MRS. AMANDA FRIED, *Office Manager*
THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD

ELECTED

MRS. MARIA GOELLNER, ESQ., *PRESIDENT*
MRS. PREEYA MONTROY, *VICE-PRESIDENT*
MRS. HEATHER BARTLETT
MS. SUSAN FORSYTHE
MR. JASON KING
MRS. ISELA ABREU-SMITH

EX-OFFICIO

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*
MR. LES FOBES, *Congregation President*
MR. GREG KERN, CPA, *Parish Treasurer, TREASURER*

CONSULTIVE

MRS. MICHELLE THOM, *Principal*
MRS. A.J. NOYES, *Faculty Representative*
MRS. MIRIAM SCHEID, *Parish Manager*

EMERITA

MRS. M. J. HOWELL

LMA Dates

School pictures will be taken on Monday, October 6 so pick out your favorite outfit and be ready to smile. Retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 3.

In recognition of Columbus Day LMA will be closed on Monday, October 13.

Trunk-or-Treat with Luther Memorial, family and friends on Sunday, October 26. Dress in costume, decorate your car, load it up with some treats and let the fun begin. Set-up in the church parking lot will begin at 1:00pm. Treating will be held from 1:30-2:30pm. Music by DJ Bill Mason, prizes, a costume parade, and of course, treats will make this a super fun day. Please contact the church or school office to sign up to decorate your car.

Annual Halloween Parade will be on Friday, October 31 at 11:00am. Parents are invited to come and enjoy the costumes. Weather permitting the parade will take place outdoors in costume. In case of inclement weather the parade will be held in the main church. Dismissal will be at 11:30am. Please do not line up for the ride line until after the Halloween Parade.

Middle School Halloween Dance is scheduled for Friday, October 24 from 6:30-9:00pm. Cost for LMA students is \$5; guests are \$8.

Additional monies for school equipment, supplies, and special projects are available through the Thrivent Choice program. The Thrivent Choice program enables every member of Thrivent to designate where funds from their Thrivent membership are to be dispersed ~ Luther Memorial Church and Luther Memorial Academy are designated recipients of Thrivent Choice Dollars. Please donate funds to LMA by looking into the financial services provided by Thrivent (life insurance, annuities, Medicare supplements, etc.). Visit their website at www.thrivent.com or we welcome you to speak with our Thrivent representative, Terry Hokaj at 878-5727. Terry is also a member of Luther Memorial Church.