

WELCOME TO
**LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & ACADEMY**



25 OCTOBER 2026
Reformation Sunday
with Affirmation of Baptism
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

LMA Principal

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

WELCOME!

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

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.

WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

+ Please note that our 10:30 service is livestreamed at: youtube.com/LutherMemorialOnline. While the cameras usually only broadcast the first third of the pews and chancel (where all the action happens), faces may be visible as individuals return to their seats from Communion.

+ Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.

+ If you have a need to **children's** bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.

+ An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.

+ You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshiping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.

+ We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

+ + +



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE – "Ist Gott für mich"

F. Ashdown

The assembly may rise in body or spirit and face the procession at the doors.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 503

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 No strength of ours can match his might!
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,

a sword and shield vic - to - rious;
We would be lost, re - ject ed.
all threat - 'ning to, de - vour us,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod
But now a cham - pion comes to fight,
we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;
for God him - self fights by our side

and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.
whom God him - self e - lect ed.
they can - not o - ver - pow'r us.
with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!
This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage.
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.
Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.
He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!
wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.
He holds the field vic - to - rious.
One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

♪ This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

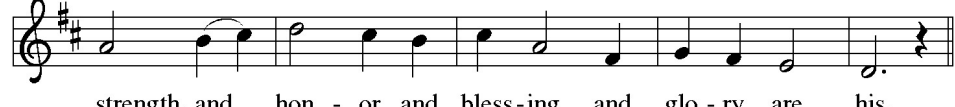
All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

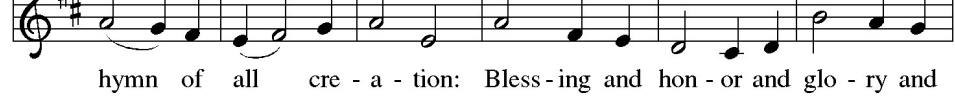
Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

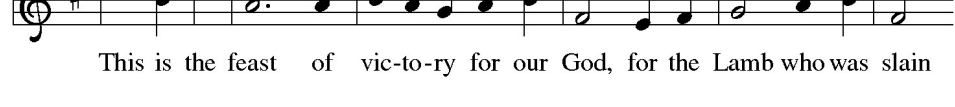


hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

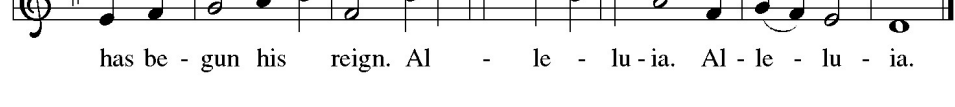


might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is held. The presiding minister, on behalf of all, prays:

Good and gracious, God, we pray for your holy catholic church: Fill us with all truth and peace. Where we are corrupt, purify us; where we are in error, direct us; where in anything we are amiss, reform us; where we are right, strength us; where we are in need, provide for us; where we are divided, reunite us; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray. God Almighty, we ask your blessing upon Karen as she reads to us the scriptures. May the words of her mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to those who are poor or defer to those who are great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALMODY

ACS 1023

God Alone Be Praised



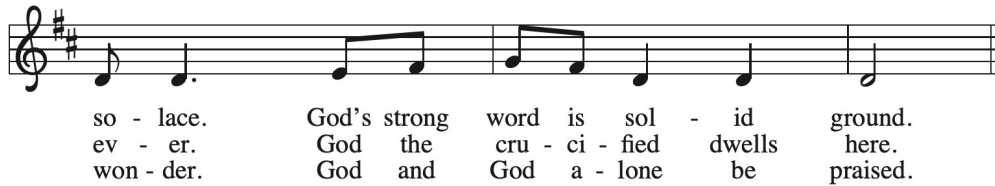
1 O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth
2 Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek-ing ref - uge, ex - iles
3 Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum-bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 46
 Music: AD LUCEM, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979
 Text © 2016 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music © 2016 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before God by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. This was to demonstrate God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time God's own righteousness, so that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The congregation may rise in body or spirit to greet the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung by the choir)

Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked Jesus a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." Jesus said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give Jesus an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

After a silence for reflection, as the music sounds, the assembly rises in body or spirit to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In The Midst of New Dimensions



1. In the midst of new di - men - sions,
2. Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple,
3. As we stand a world di - vid - ed
4. We are man and we are wo - man,
5. Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions

in the face of chang - ing ways, who will lead the
war - ring fac - tions and de - spair, who will lift the
by our own self - seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your
all per - sua - sions, old and young, each a gift in
cause us to with - draw in pain, may your blaz - ing

pil - grim peo - ples wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
ol - ive branch - es? Who will light the flame of care?
glo - bal vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung,
phoe - nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain

God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar,
we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney now and ev - er,
now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Words and Music: Julian B. Rush
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The assembly may be seated.

The RITE of AFFIRMATION BAPTISM *for*

Mitchell Paul Boyd
Alexander Martin Cooney
Cecilia Rose Montroy
Carter Joseph O'Leary



PRESENTATION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Those making affirmation are presented by a representative of the congregation:

I present names, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

The presiding minister may continue with prayer.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The assembly rises in body or spirit as the presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

AFFIRMATION

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The assembly may be seated. Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray. Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *her/his* faith, guide *her/his* life, empower *her/him* in *her/his* serving, give *her/him* patience in suffering, and bring *her/him* to everlasting life.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wounded hands of Love, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through the Crucified-Risen One, Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

If not already standing, the assembly may rise in body or spirit. The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly shares a sign and greeting of peace. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch.
After, the assembly is seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

God feeds us with Jesus Christ.

OFFERING



An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church.

MUSICAL OFFERING – “Will Your Anchor Hold”

P. J. Owens
W. J. Kirkpatrick

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife;
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain? *Refrain*

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love!*

Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near;
while the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves then your bank o'erflow? *Refrain*

Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold, and the harbor bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heav'nly shore,
when life's storms are past forevermore? *Refrain*

The assembly rises in body or spirit as the gifts of bread and wine for Communion and our financial offerings are brought forward.

OFFERTORY HYMN



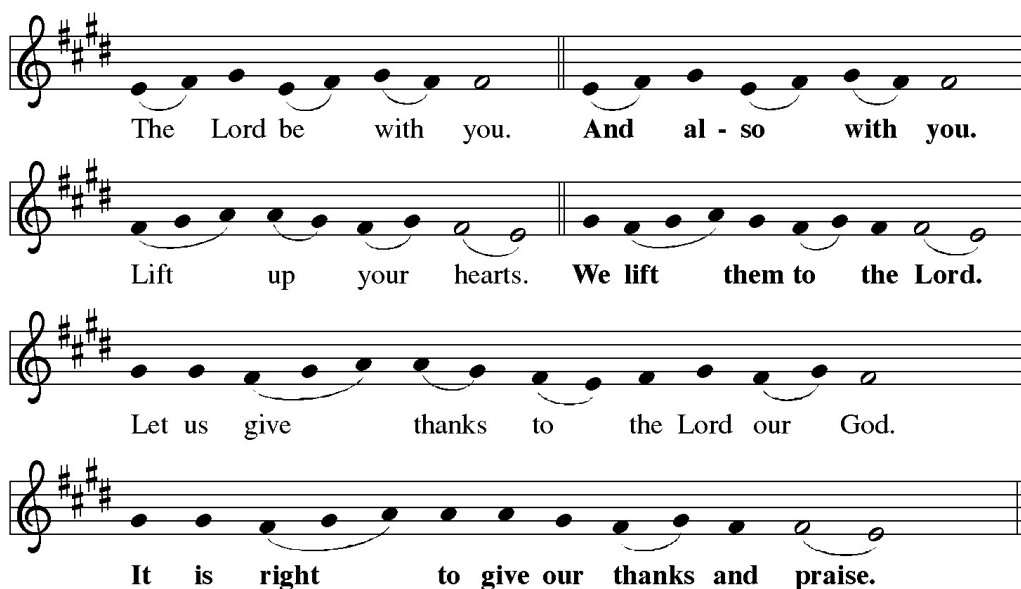
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

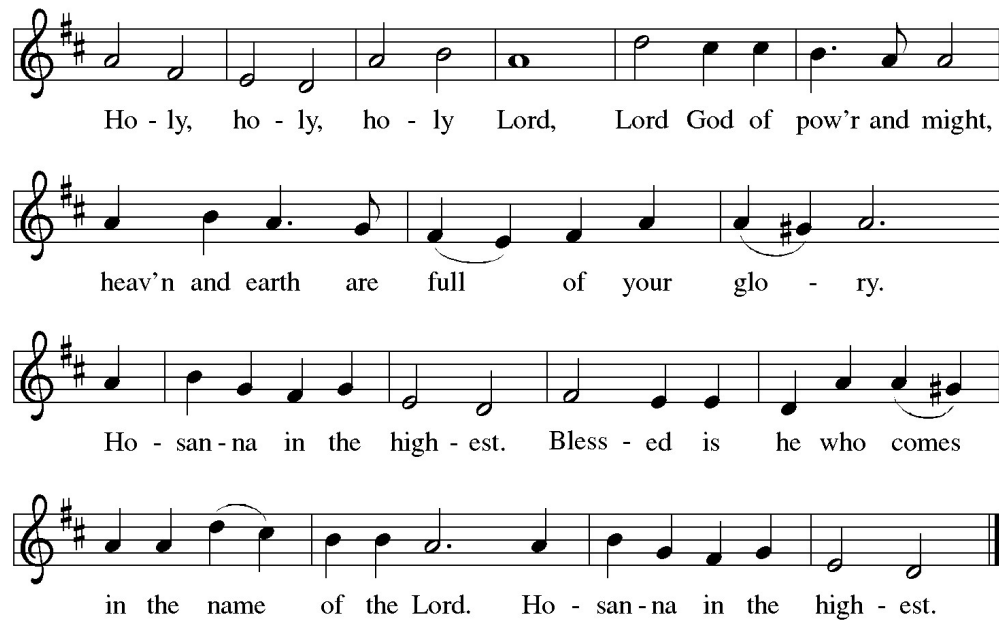
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

♪ It is indeed right...unending hymn:



We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth, for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields, for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in this place, for creatures seen and unseen, for animals both wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe, and for the places we humans call home, for cities and churches and schools, for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.

We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses and Miriam and Aaron, for Jeremiah and the psalmists, and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul; for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg, and Fedde; for Katie and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai, Nommensen and Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer and Hammarskjöld, for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,

*who on the night before he died,
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.*

And so we remember your Word, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his presence in this meal around the world, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray, O God, for your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your law, your grace, your freedom. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of your churches; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, with the joy of life in your household.

We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield, today, tomorrow, and forever.

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

The assembly may be seated.

THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is 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. Receive the bread in your open palm. If you are in need to gluten free bread, please let us know. Proceeding to either communion assistant, hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. Non-alcoholized grape juice is in the pre-filled cups. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the bowls. 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. If you need communion brought to you, please let a neighbor know to inform the presiding minister.*

As our newest mature members of the congregation, full-fledged peers in the life of faith and discipleship, communion will be served by our confirmands.

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

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

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

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

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

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

For by Grace You Have Been Saved



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
 own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
 self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
 God's great gift." A - men.
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
 Music: ARMOLAUULU, Kari Tikka
 Text and music © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

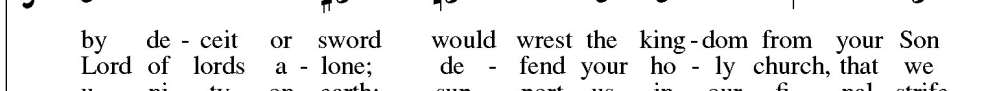
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

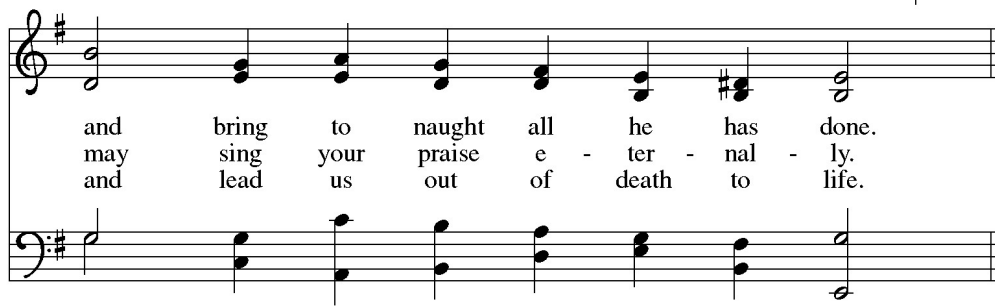


1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife





Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

After all who so desire have received the Sacrament of the Altar, the assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared in the sight of ev- 'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo-ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Merciful God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un - bound-ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE – "Ein Feste Burg"

D. Cherwien

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— EXPECTED TO LEAD IN WORSHIP TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

ACOLYTES – Cecilia Montroy, Carter O'Leary

CRUCIFER – Mitchell Boyd

BANNER BEARER – Alexander Cooney

LECTOR – Karen Braendel

BOOK BEARER – Elijah Montroy

USHERS – Sharon Burke, Carl Moore

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents; Roberta and William Braendel, and our brothers; Richard, John and Robert and our sister; Diane, by the Braendel family.

Columbarium flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Reformation and in loving memory of Pastor J. David Mumford, II and John Mumford, III, by Mary Mumford.

**Congratulations to our Confirmands
who today are affirming their promises
God made to them at their baptisms:**

MITCHELL PAUL BOYD, 9th Grade at Northwestern Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy

Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... I went to church with my family all those times when I was young, so I could build my faith with the Lord and now I can be a part of the church forever through confirmation.

Favorite Bible Verse: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." -Isaiah 41:10

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: At school, my favorite memory was in first grade, every class downstairs watched Polar Express in the hallway and drank hot chocolate. At church, my favorite memory was making the bread for communion.

ALEXANDER MARTIN COONEY, 10th Grade at General McLane

Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... I know how much God loves me and trust in him and his plan for my life.

Favorite Bible Verse: "Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me." - Genesis 27:3

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: The Souper Bowl taste testing—I always look forward to enjoying great good with my church family.

CECILIA ROSE MONTROY, 9th Grade at Commonwealth Charter Academy

Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... They wanted me to grow up knowing God's love, experiencing His forgiveness, and having a foundation of faith to guide me throughout my life.

Favorite Bible Verse: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" - Matthew 5:8

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: Our Willy Wonka-themed movie night with the youth group, especially playing hide-and-seek in the dark throughout the church. I'll always remember the excitement and curiosity of exploring the church, as well as all the fun we had that night. Moments like these remind me how special Luther Memorial is to me and how grateful I am for the friendships, memories, and sense of belonging I've found here.

CARTER JOSEPH O'LEARY, 10th Grade at Northwestern Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy

Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... it is important for me to have a relationship with God.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: Doing Lucia with my sister.

**May God continue to richly bless you
and accompany you on your journey of faith.**

Today's Events

Join us in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for a reception honoring our confirmands.

Pictorial Directories are available at the Welcome Tables this morning. If you would like a pdf version of the directory please contact Norma in the church office and one will be emailed to you.

Stewardship Season

Israel was fed with manna from heaven. Elijah was sustained by bread and meat brought by ravens. The disciples traveled with a common purse, sharing their gifts with one another. Christ invited those gathered at the Feast of the Five Thousand to witness a generosity beyond what they could imagine. The ancient church shared all things in common, believing that the call to communal spiritual growth is also a call to give back to God what God has given us. In keeping with this history and heritage, trusting that God provides us with everything we need to do what we are called to do and be who we are called to be, we are together in this stewardship season prayerfully discerning our ability to financially support God's mission for us in this place.

Pledge Cards are due on Sunday, November 15 when we will offer them and ourselves to God's use in the coming year.

Worship Matters!

October 31 has been kept as a commemoration of the Reformation since at least the 17th century. The date was chosen because of the pious legend of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. While that even almost certainly did not happen—and definitely not as so often is depicted—the dating and presentation of the 95 Theses is an oft-credited beginning of the Protestant Reformation in continental Europe.

By his own admission, Luther was not the first reformer (though he would call himself and his fellow reformers “Evangelicals” for their desire to be more faithful to the “Evangelion” or Gospel of Jesus). He also, we know, was not the last. The 16th century was rife with reformation throughout the Church in Europe. And it was just that, a desire to *reform* and not to make a new religion or even branch of Christianity. While he saw the necessity in the end because of the deep divides in understanding, Luther himself was never easy with a new denomination being formed. And being called a *Lutheran* was certainly not a point of pride for anyone since it was an derogatory name used by those in power and in many places came with a punishment and stigma.

While our celebrations on October 31 (or the last Sunday in October), are celebrations of many things—the gift of the Gospel, the ever-present and ever-active Spirit, the ever-reforming Church, to name just a few—it should never be a celebration of the past. And it most definitely is not a “Lutherans Are Better” celebration either. This day we celebrate that the Church of God is continually called to be attentive to our theology and our proclamation of the Good News and to reform and update ourselves as is most needed in our time and place.

Ecclesia Semper Reformanda! The Church, Ever Reforming!

Faith Formation

*Faith Formation brochures are available at the Welcome Table.
Class dates are listed for children, youth, confirmation and adults.*

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. We will continue our study on the book of Revelation. Our next gathering will be Thursday, October 29.

FAITH5! Join us for our new program called Faith5: Cross+Gen. This program gathers all ages around various topics to share in single “eduworship” opportunity. We will gather in the Parlor at 9:15am on the Second Sunday of each month and share a chance for everyone from our oldest to our youngest members to share and learn and grow and have a fun time growing deeper and broader and higher and further in faith together! It won't be the same without you! Our next Faith5: Cross+Gen gathering will be Sunday, November 8. See you there!

Bible After Dark (BAD) meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. **YOU** are invited to join us on Tuesday, November 3.

Opportunities for Fellowship

L.I.A., Lutherans in Action, gather the second Tuesday of each month to help with community and service projects. Bring the family down and lend a hand. If you are not familiar with the BAND App, contact Sarah Prylinski at 814-882-1695 as outings are also posted on the app. We're hoping you can join us.

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 October 27 for knitting and crocheting. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Contact Norma in the church office or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Cantor Bryan will visit the OWLS on Wednesday, November 18 at 11:00am to answer all the questions about the beginning stages of our new organ and how the process will proceed. Lunch will be served following the program; please bring a dish to share. Reservations are due to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or the church office by Sunday, November 15.

Time to Shop at our Craft Show on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00am-3:00pm. Professional crafters with unique artistries and lots of variety will help you check off all those gifts for the holidays. Admission is \$2. Free admission for educators with ID badge. Proceeds benefit our youth group.

Join us for Bingo on Sunday, November 8 in our fellowship hall. Doors will open at 12:00 noon with Bingo play beginning at 12:30pm. Prizes are \$50 cash per game. Eight games will be played including 2 coveralls as well as games of chance. Tickets are \$25 and are available in the church office.

Supporting our Youth

Holiday meals will be a snap when you order from a variety of delicious meats from Gahr's Hamloaf. Sausage flavors in links or bulk, country style breakfast sausage, Philly cheesesteak and, of course, hamloaf will make everyone's mouth water. Orders are due Sunday, November 29; pick-up is Sunday, December 20. Payment is due with your order; checks may be made to Luther Memorial Church LYO. Order forms are located at the welcome tables and the church and school offices. Proceeds benefit our youth. Thank you.

Items to Note

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

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.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Betsy Brumagin	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Lois Smith
Diane Parsons	Les Fobes	Karen Zamperini	Dennis Martin
Donna Sedelmyer	Mary Mumford	Paul Meucci	Brian Hubbard
Ella Graffius			

Friends and Family:

Hannah Jacob	Gail Lesuer	Sue Rinder	Erin N.
Brian Doersch	Jim Scobel	Ellie	Peggy S.
Kimberly Dunahue	Peter Maker	Shirley	Brynlee
Kevin Soles & family	Kathy Colvin	Anthony Benacci	Susan Sasala
Jessica Kinzig	Lynn	Kathy Nicewander	Connor & family
Lisa E.	Mary Phipps	Nichole Jones	Linda & Brian
Abigal & Madison Beatty	Mark Daniels	Brooks Davis	Linda Wozniak
Karla Hahn Strieb			

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	Justin Gajewski

Readings and Commemorations This Week.

26 October – Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters – Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25; James 2:8-13 -- *These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.*

27 October – Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 10:10-22; James 2:14-16

28 October – Simon and Jude, Apostles – Jeremiah 26:1-16; Psalm 11; I John 4:1-6; John 14:21-27 – *We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.*

29 October – Psalm 43; I Samuel 2:27-36; Romans 2:17-29

30 October – Psalm 43; Ezekiel 13:1-16; II Peter 2:1-3

31 October – Reformation Day – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 -- *By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.*

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26	1:00pm	Foster Grandparent Meeting
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27	10:00am 10:00am	Pericope Magic Fingers Grace Group
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28	11:00am 11:00am	LMA Student Council Pizza with the Principal & Pastor
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29	12:00pm 1:00pm 5:30pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group Handbells
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30	10:00am 11:30am	LMA Halloween Parade LMA Dismissal
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31		

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Zach Middaugh
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Emma Chaffee, Gail Zackrison
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Carl Moore