

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



25 JUNE 2023
St. John the Forerunner
10:30 am

John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. In the gospel stories he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern and doubt.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

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

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER & SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

BECKY CAREY

Interim Academy Administrator

26 JUNE 2023

ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting One • 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 – Sonata No. 5 in G Minor
Sonata No. 7 in C Major

Domenico Zipoli (1688 - 1726)

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Please stand as you are able.

Based on Matthew 25:1-14, this hymn text is the work of one of the best hymn-writers of the Pietistic period. The hymn tune is a Swedish folk melody, associated with the Swedish version of this hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.





The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' ⁶A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 141

Let My Prayer Arise

Refrain

Let my prayer a - rise be - fore you,
a - rise be - fore you like in - cense.

1 O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly;
2 Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
3 Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD,
4 Let not my heart incline to any e - vil thing;
5 But my eyes are turned to you, LORD GOD;

1 hear my voice when I cry to you.
2 the lifting up of my hands as the evening sac - ri - fice. *Refrain*
3 and guard the door of my lips.
4 let me not be occupied in wickedness with e - vil - doers.
5 in you I take refuge; strip me not of my life. *Refrain*

Text: Psalm 141:1-4, 8
Music: Leon C. Roberts, 1950-1999
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

SECOND READING: Acts 13:13-26

¹³ Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; ¹⁴but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, ‘Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.’ ¹⁶So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: ‘You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance ²⁰for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. ²¹Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. ²²When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, “I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.” ²³Of this man’s posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; ²⁴before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his work, he said, “What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.” ²⁶‘My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-67

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' ⁶¹ They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,
and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.
So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able.

The compelling hymn text is the only one published by its author, although not his only published work. Born in England, he moved to Canada to work as an editor and writer. The melody is by an organist who also started life in England, moving later to Canada. His tune is notable for its success in "exalting" the valleys, and then running the "crooked paths" upwards to a peak from which the melody moves straight down stepwise to the end.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 255

There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- P** God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The sponsor(s) present the candidate for baptism:

I present **Maeve Helena Zamperini** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parent(s):

- P** Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Maeve Helena baptized into Christ?

R I do.

As you bring Maeve to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Maeve grow in the Christian faith and life?

R I do.

The presiding minister addresses the sponsors:

- P** Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Maeve in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Maeve and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C We do.

Please stand as you are able.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

P 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?

R **I renounce them.**

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

R **I renounce them.**

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

R **I renounce them.**

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



P Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again, and the eunuch is made wholly a part of your beloved community.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the child. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

P Maeve Helena, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

P and of the Son,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

P and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

P Sustain Maeve Helena with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

P Maeve Helena, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.



WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as the pastor says:

- ☐ Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. The pastor leads the assembly in the welcome.

- ☐ Let us welcome Maeve, our newest sibling in Christ!
- ☑ **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Text and tune for this hymn are the work of a prolific musician who received honorary degrees, edited publications on current church songs, taught voice, served as a church music director, produced radio broadcasts and founded a publishing company through which he published the hymns and music he composed, arranged and recorded. He died in March 2017.

SPRINKLING SONG

ELW 451

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

THE PRAYERS

A United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Holy God who reveals all things, distribute throughout your church a wide variety of gifts that, used in harmony, together point to Christ. Stir us to repent from all things that cloud Christ's presence among us. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Bring refreshment to all who seek rest and recreation in this season. Send favorable weather for the growth of crops, and also for opportunities to enjoy creation and to engage in renewing outdoor activities. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Grant wisdom to those who hold power and influence throughout the world, that they exercise their roles with humility. May we yield to truth and strength that surpasses what we can understand, for the sake of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Receive as fragrant incense the prayers of all who cry out to you. Hear the appeals of your faithful people, and respond with mercy and steadfast love for all who long for your deliverance. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Nurture newborn infants and all living creatures not yet able to survive on their own. Through them, give us insight to your new life, and inspire us to care for all who are vulnerable. Bless Maeve Helena who we welcome into your family this morning. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A With John the Baptist and all your saints, especially Andrew Dahlstrand and those of the Shaner, Hirt and McAfee families, shape us to be your prophets, people who speak and live your will. Make your holy presence known in and through us. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord is with you.

C **And also with you.**

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:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

VOLUNTARY – "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

arr. Kevin Sadowski

Please stand as you are able.

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales,
 this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148
 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (*Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord*).

OFFERTORY

ELW 881

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

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.

PREFACE

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:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

P When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

P 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 cup 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.**

OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

- ☐ 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.**

AGNUS DEI

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.
- ☐ 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

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.
Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.
White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.
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.*

The text of this hymn, clearly expressing Isaiah 40:1-5, was written by the son of a pastor, himself a hymn writer, in 17th century Saxony. The melody was originally associated with a French folksong, later with a German funeral hymn. J. S. Bach used it in no fewer than 8 of his cantatas.

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,





Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

*The text for this hymn is the work of a prolific hymn writer of 17th century Germany.
 The tune, whose composer was a great organist and hymn-writer of 19th-century England,
 was originally written for a wedding hymn.*

ELW 542

O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

☐ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

☑ Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☐ We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

Please be seated.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

☐ The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

☑ Amen.

*This text is the work of one of the great hymn-writers of the ages, author of over six thousand hymns.
The tune was written by a German organist from Saxony.*

SENDING HYMN

ELW 553

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;





Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
 Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

arr. Benjamin Culli

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— SERVING TODAY —

- PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell
- GREETER* – Skip Meyn
- ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer
- ASSISTING MINISTER* – Linda Swanson
- LECTOR* – Pat Gilbert
- COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Elaine Kern
- ALTAR GUILD* – Loretta Deeds
- USHERS* – Cathy Beck, Dave Griswold, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory and honor of the Shaner, Hirt and McAfee families by Sally and Phil McAfee.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Andrew Dahlstrand, Joanne Dahlstrand’s nephew, who died June 4. His funeral service was held June 10.

Today’s Events

Maeve Helena Zamperini will be baptized into the fellowship of Luther Memorial through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during the 10:30 service this morning. Born May 12, 2023, she is the daughter of Kate Zamperini and granddaughter of Carol and Mark Zamperini.

Blood pressure screening will be offered in the school library at 11:30 this morning.

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.

Worship

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.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

For the week of June 25, Pastor Jay will not have scheduled drop-in hours. As always you can make an appointment by e-mail: JMitchell@luthermemorialonline.org OR by using: calendly.com/TheRevJCM.

Paving Project

Parking has improved dramatically with the addition and improvements made over the last few weeks. We continue to ask for your financial support as our Capital Campaign moves forward. Additional commitments are needed as we look to fulfilling our financial goal. Your help and all that you do at Luther Memorial is appreciated; thank you.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Set sail with the OWLS on the Victorian Princess on Wednesday, July 19. Enjoy a delicious lunch and beautiful scenery. Boarding begins at 11:30am. The cost is \$43.28 (tax and tip included) per person and due before boarding begins. Reservations and payment in cash or check are due to Jan MacInnes no later than July 14. Checks are to be made payable to Jan MacInnes. Thank you.

Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise will be held Sunday, July 16 from 1:00-4:00pm in our parking lot. We invite everyone to join us for a fun filled afternoon. We will have a variety of show cars to check out along with DJ Bill Mason, Magic Steve, food truck, bake sale, 50-50 Raffle, and a Chinese Auction with over 100 baskets. Monies raised will benefit Shriners Children's Erie and Luther Memorial's youth who will be traveling to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2024. For more information, contact Gina at 814-602-7679 or Mike Snider at 814-602-7036.

Magic Fingers Grace Group is sure to put a skip in your step when you begin the day with friends. Combine that with your favorite yarn projects, knitting and crocheting and you're sure to be smiling. Join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am-12:00pm; June 27, July 11 and July 25. 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.

Items to Note

Parking in the lot across from 11th Street is not permitted. Please do not park in this area as your car will be towed. Thank you.

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.

Bethany Outreach Center

Are you a Golfer who Enjoys a Good Scramble? Join us at the 6th Annual Harbor Ridge Open, this year in Support of the Bethany Outreach Center!

Save the Date: Sunday, July 30 Time: 10:00am

Location: Harbor Ridge Golf Course at 3730 Harbor Ridge Trail in Erie, PA 16510

Highlights of this "Fun" Fundraiser:

- 16 Teams will compete in two 9-hole "Scramble" Rounds
- 9 optional "Fun" Skill Contests, such as Hole-In-One, Closest-To-The-Pin, etc.
- **Even if you're not a golfer**, you can still enjoy the Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Pull-Tab Prizes/Games in the Club House during and after golf
- Hot dogs and drinks at the turn
- All Proceeds go to support the Bethany Outreach Center
- Cost is \$300 per Foursome

To sign up see the registration information at the Bethany Outreach Center website (www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org). Call, text, or email Eric Hedlund if you have any questions, at (814) 898-1233 or (814) 722-7732 or eric@bethanyoutreachcenter.org.

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JUNE 26

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 10:00pm Magic Fingers Grace Group
 10:00am Study Group for Pastors

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 10:00am School Board
 3:00pm Prayer Group
 6:00pm PIAA

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 6:00pm Select Specialty Meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

SATURDAY, JULY 1

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023
ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE

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

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Roberta Lobaugh
	10:30am	Stan Rose
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	10:30am	Pat Young
Counters	10:30am	Dave Kinzig, Natalie Montero

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon			
Friends and Family:			
Debbie	Elayne Morphy	Kate Collins	Bernie Wiest
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	John Semonis	Roger Smith	Branden Jones
Mark Smith	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Caitlyn Kessler
John Varner	Melissa Pierce	Diane Henry	Meghan Kessler
Michael Collins & Mary	Kevin	Ginger	Bonnie Ford
Baby Archer Bardwell	Curtis Krick	Karen Chilcote	Susan Brooks
Michele Seifert			
Grief:			
Andrew Dahlstrand family	Thelma Fetrow family	Adam Surovick Family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown