

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



31 AUGUST 2025
THE 22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
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

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

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!

~ 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.

~ There are **hand fans** available on the table by the pulpit. Please help yourself and remember to return after worship this morning.

+ + +

PRELUDE – “Gather Us In”

J. Honoré

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ONE: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

ALL: Amen.

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

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 532

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,
 we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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OPENING SENTENCE

Blessed be our God,
forever and ever. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the presence of a monarch or stand in the place of the great, ⁷for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 112 (*Sung in unison.*)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for God has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the

outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through Christ, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess God's name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, your host may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” ¹²Jesus said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your siblings or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite those who are poor, crippled, lame, and blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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.

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Journey with Elizabeth, our Presiding Bishop and Yehiel, our Presiding Bishop-Elect. Encourage Michael, our bishop, whose term comes to an end today. Uplift Kristen, our Bishop-Elect, with graces without number as she assumes her service tomorrow. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. Embolden us to speak and to act for just and living wages for all and protection for migrant workers. Shield and support those whose labor is done and often overlooked. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence especially whose names and needs we lift up now: _____. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For Luther Memorial Academy, we pray. May you, O God, be above, before, behind, and beside our children, families, and teachers. As they challenge and play, learn and grow in the year ahead: be in their head, their hands, their feet, and their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, especially Nikolai and Nancy, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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.

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 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. 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 – “Flute Voluntary”

G. Green

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

OFFERING HYMN

ACS 1092

Thank You, Lord

A musical score for the hymn 'Thank You, Lord'. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different part of the hymn.

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
2 Been so good, been so good, been so
3 Been my friend, been my friend, been my
4 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord, love you,

Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 good, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 friend, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.

Text: Traditional
 Music: THANK YOU, LORD, Traditional

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

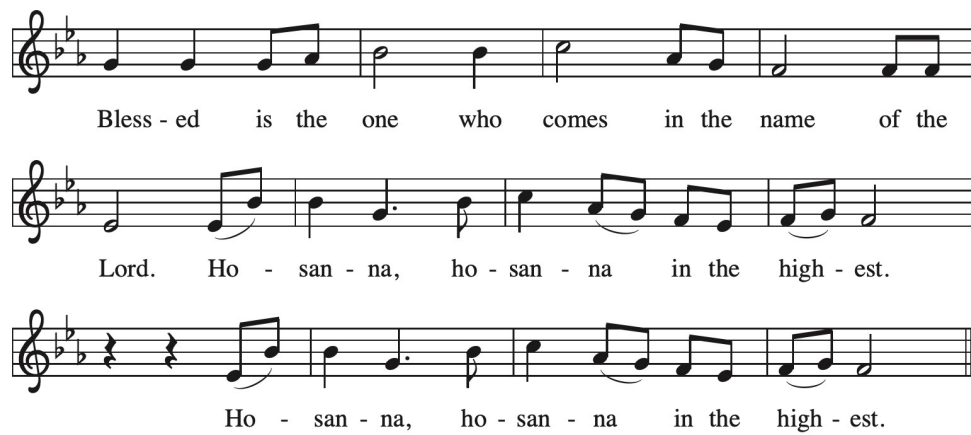
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

*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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'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,

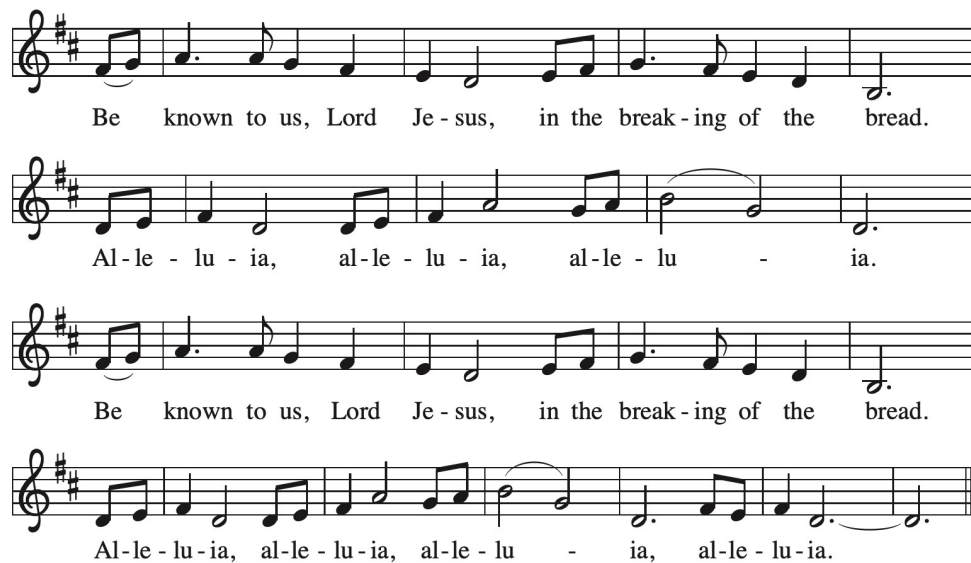
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Thanks be to God!

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

Please be seated.

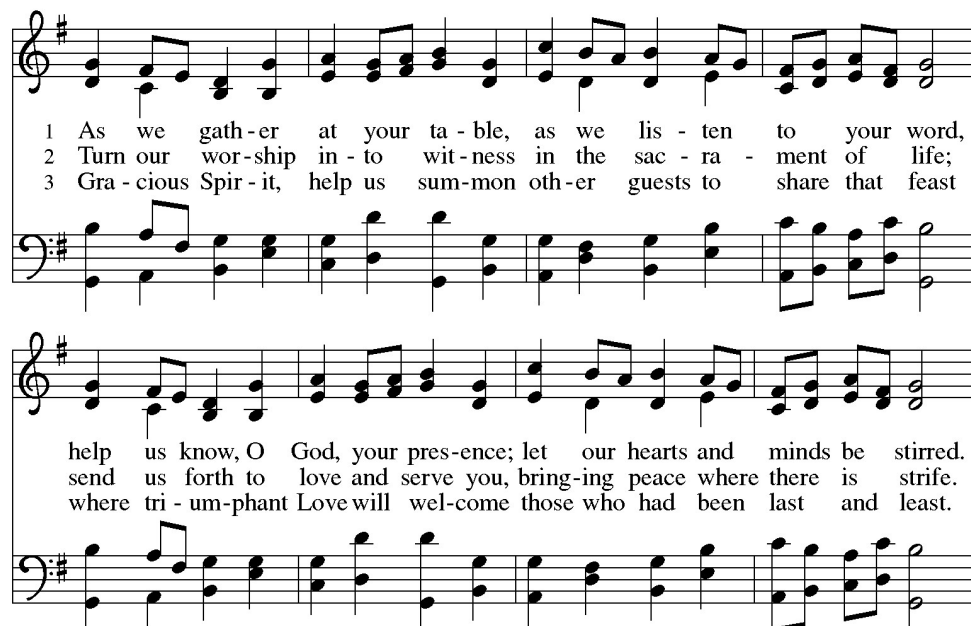
THE COMMUNION

*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.*

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 522

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;
give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,
the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;
a - bol - ish an-cient ven-geance: pro - claim your peo-ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

...now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 266

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “Postlude on McKee”

R. Powell

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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.

— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTOR – Lois Smith

USHERS – Carl Moore, Martha & Tom Klomp, Mary Mumford

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Nancy E. Shaner’s birthday by her daughter, Sally McAfee.

Front lectern flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the 24th wedding anniversary today of Barb and Carl Moore given by Barb and Carl.

Giving offerings to outreach ministries allows Luther Memorial to support vital work beyond our church walls, like serving those in need and spreading the gospel. It enables us to fulfill our mission of serving God and others by funding programs that improve lives, both physically and spiritually. This morning our offerings will be donated to Augusta Victory Hospital, Lutheran World Federation sponsored hospital in Jerusalem (avh.org/).

Faith Formation Calendar 2025C-2026A

Catechism is getting a revamp! It seems like there has been a change every year since Pastor Jay has gotten here. And there has. But there has also been much in flux about ConfirCamp and other programming. A general schedule has been set: For students 7th grade through 9th grade, there will be four workshops offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: November, January, March, May) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

Faith Formation Calendars for adults are available in hard copy on the Welcome Table near the Ramp Door. Check out all the opportunities to gather for Adult Forum (beginning October 12), Brown Bag Bible (beginning September 4), and Bible After Dark (BAD, beginning October 7) every month! The schedule will be slightly different this year for some, and there are resources available for others. So check it out now and let the church office know if you need to put in a reservation for any of the resources!

Worship Matters!

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.

Communion Practices are deeply held and central parts of the identity of many denominations, the ELCA included. In the ELCA, we hold that Communion is the “feast of the baptized.” The only criteria to receive Communion, that is, is that someone is baptized. Understanding the details, even knowing what the words are, is not. Indeed, as we teach our First Communion students, there is a place for *you* at the Table...and it does not rely on your worthiness but on Jesus’ invitation. We grow as a family around the Table in our understanding of this Meal that we share. Yet, none of us fully understand its mysteries (that’s why it’s a “sacrament”, the Latin word for “mystery”). In the early days of the Reformation when Luther sat in Marburg in colloquy with other reformers like Zwingli and Calvin, they argued over what happens in the Eucharist. Is it a Sacrament? Is it a Memorial? Is it just a ritual act? How is it that Jesus who is bodily in heaven could possibly be bodily here on earth on the Table we share? While they argued, Luther is said to have carved into the Table where he was sitting “hoc corpus meum est,” “This is my body.” He said, “Is means is, and that’s all we need to know.” Later, when questioned about the particulars of how the physical attributes of bread and wine could contain the substance of Jesus’ body and blood, Luther remarked, “Do not bother me with your questions of geometry when it is a matter of faith.”

Our First Communion and Confirmation students learn the answers to the three questions that matter: What happens in Communion? *Jesus shows up*. Why does Jesus show up? *Because he promises to*. How is this possible? *Dunno*.

But that is ELCA polity, theology, and ecclesiology. Other denominations have their own teachings. There are six denominations with whom ELCA is in Full Communion Partnership. After prayerful, thoughtful, and perhaps even challenging dialogue with these siblings, the ELCA has agreed that we can share Communion together in each other’s congregations and, indeed, even share clergy (Ministers of Word and Sacrament, those called by God to administer the Sacraments in the church). Those six denominations are: The Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church (but not the Global Methodist Church), the Presbyterian Church-USA (PCUSA, but not the PCA), the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church, and the Moravian Church. In our understanding, where the Gospel is preached purely and the sacraments are administered rightly, where there are not those who *disagree* with our confessions, we can share the Sacrament for, as Luther would say, there is the True Church to be found.

There are, of course, countless other denominations with whom we are not yet in Full Communion Partnership, but we pray that we may continue in dialogue and fellowship and prayer until we all can live into Jesus’ prayer that “they all may be one.” Chief among these conversation partners at present are: The Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Churches (with whom we have recently shared a joint statement on the *Filioque* clause in the Nicene Creed), and the Historic Black Churches (such as the AME, AME-Zion, CME, and othes).

Bishop-Elect Papson’s Installation News

Lamb of God is looking to hire a bus to take a group to Bishop-Elect Papson’s installation on October 19. Details will depend on interest. They have asked if Mt. Calvary and Luther have anyone interested in riding the bus. It would most likely depart from Lamb of God following worship on that Sunday. If you are interested in this opportunity, please speak with Pastor Jay this morning.

Music Ministry

Have you been wondering what events the Concert Series has in store beginning this fall? A variety of events are planned and you can view these by visiting our website at www.lm-concerts.com. More information can also be found on our Luther Memorial website under “Ministries”.

Our First “Concert” will be a viewing of *Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine*. The producers, Linda Karn, along with Matthew Shepard’s parents, Judy and Dennis, will be with us for this momentous occasion. This event is free—as are all our concerts—but tickets are required for crowd control. If you are interested in tickets, see someone in the Parlor following worship today to sign up online, or you can sign up on the LM Concert website.

Christian Education

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.

Confirmation classes for our 10th grade youth will begin Sunday, September 21 held from 11:45am – 2:00pm with lunch provided. Youth will walk in the CROP Walk on September 28 and attend class held October 5 and October 12. Youth will be confirmed Sunday, October 26 at the 10:30am service.

Saint Zita’s Day

Saint Zita, a 13th century Italian woman known for her devotion to God and her service to others, is the patron saint of domestic workers. On Saturday, September 27 we will observe St. Zita’s Day by working together and clean our main church and parlor. We would be thrilled to see 50 people join us at 9:00am and finish up in no time. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Les Fobes or Norma in the church office by Wednesday, September 24 if you plan to help. Thank you.

Youth

Our Yard Sale is almost here. Treasures will be found at our annual fall yard sale on Saturday, September 6 from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Stop on down to fellowship hall for some great finds. Items for the sale may be dropped in the church office. Books, TV’s or large electronic items, and soft furniture will not be accepted.

Opportunities for Fellowship

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; September 9 and September 23. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS want to know “What’s Your Game?” Join us for a fun time playing board games, cards, checkers or your favorite game on Wednesday, September 24. We will meet in the parlor at 11:00am. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476 or the church office by Friday, September 19.

Outreach

CROP Walk day is Sunday, September 28 with registration at 1:00pm and the walk beginning at 2:00pm. The Walk will begin at Beach 1. Get your family and friends together and join us in this special 50th Anniversary Celebration. Sign up and start raising funds to help our neighbors in need. Packets can be picked up in our church office.

Grief Group

Grief and Loss Group for parents and grandparents who have dealt with the loss of a child of any age will have gatherings in the church parlor beginning Thursday, September 11 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. Gatherings will be held every Thursday through December 4. Please contact Karen Braendel at 814-835-5029 with any questions.

LMA News

Block Party is going to be a day of fun for everyone on Saturday, September 13 from 12:00 noon – 3:00pm. Stop down for carnival games, bounce house, basket raffle, music, delicious food and so much more. There’s even bingo and 50/50. Rain or shine it will be a great time!

Items to Note

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, 2404 West Grandview Blvd. in Erie has an immediate opening for a part-time custodian. Up to 8 hours per week. Please call the church office at 814-868-8685 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

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.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Walt Gaber	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Dorothy Youngman			
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Dolores Koscinski
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Carol Steffey & Marissa	Sandy M.	Ron Lester	Sherry Giles
Lakeyia, Damarion, Noah, Diamond	Henderson family	Carol Johnson	Phil Nagy
David Gilbert	Joel		
Grief:			
Marilyn Bohn family	Lois Fobes family	Woodard family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

Readings and Commemoration This Week

September 1 – Psalm 119:65-72; II Chronicles 12:1-12; Hebrews 13:7-21

September 2 – **Nikolia Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872** – Psalm 119:65-72; Isaiah 2:12-17; Titus 1:1-9 -- *Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.*

September 3 – Psalm 119:65-72; Isaiah 57:14-21; Luke 14:15-24

September 4 – Psalm 1; Genesis 39:1-23; Philippians 2:25-30

September 5 – Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 7:12-26; Colossians 4:7-17

September 6 – Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 29:2-20; Matthew 10:34-42

CALENDAR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Labor Day

Church & LMA Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

12:00pm
3:00pm

Deborah Circle
W/ELCA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

12:00pm

Brown Bag Bible

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:00am
10:00am

Indoor Yard Sale
Quilting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Lector	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Skip MacInnes
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Carl Moore, Amy Scott

