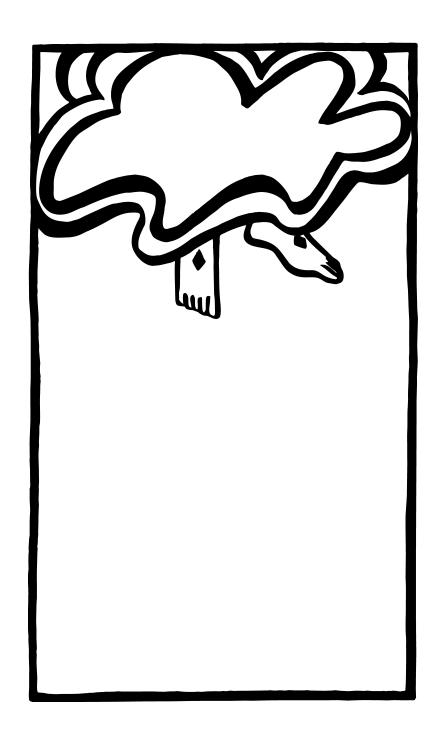
Welcome to

Luther Memorial Church



29 MAY 2025
THE ASCENSION
Erie Lutheran Conference Worship

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**. Wriggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).
- ~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

+ + +

GATHERING

M. Ardrey-Graves

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

PRELUDE – "Jubilant Procession"

Handbell Choir

"Declare Your Maker's Praise!"

L. Larson

Conference Choir

Please rise in body or spirit and face the font at the Crossing.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

ONE: Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

ALL: The Lord with the sound of the trumpet! Alleluia!

In the name of \oplus the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821

GREETING

Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

The Lord with the sound of the trumpet! Alleluia!

The grace of the Risen Christ, the love of our ever-living God, and the fellowship of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-14

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and

languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY tune: ENGELBERG

Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord, to search the mystery in heaven stored, the knowledge of the Holy One adored? Alleluia!

The Christ alone, whose hands and heart are pure, one Servant of the Lord with purpose sure, can enter in that glory to endure. Alleluia!

This One alone ascends to God's right hand who first came down as his high mercy planned; true God and man has earth and heaven spanned. Alleluia!

Before the clouds receive God's Christ on high, a cross lifts up his form against the sky; the Framer of the worlds has come to die. Alleluia!

Christ shall ascend the mountain of the Lord, the God of glory, whose own blood out-poured paid that dear price that mercy did afford. Alleluia!

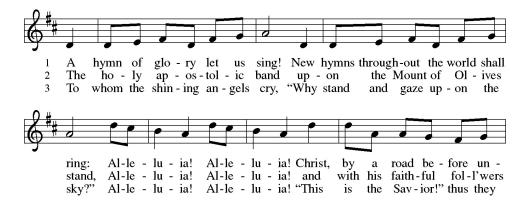
SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

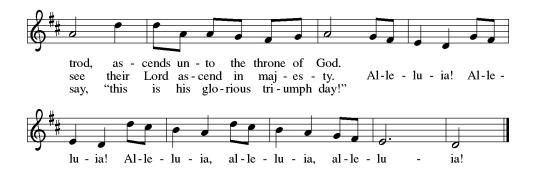
¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe, according to the working of God's great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand of Power in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and might and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And God has put all things under the feet of Christ and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is the body of Christ, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 393





GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

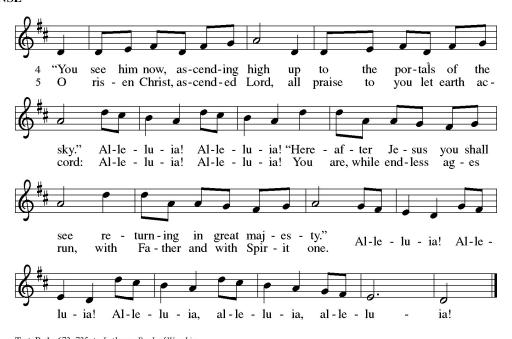
The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you— that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE



Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY **ACS 953**

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands 1 Be - fore the An-cient One, Christ stands, en - robed 2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the bright as snow, five wounds im print his side, feet, hu - man sphere; his di - a dem; com - pas - sion was grasped is none at prem - ise clear, pow - er all, and gar - land thorns, the on his brow. Yet thrones and gen - tle Spir - it was the tear; hu - mil - i glo ry ing shows your near. As na - tions pow'rs fall the weave a song of maj - es - ty, to knee and his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb. glo - ries tempt and greed sus-tains, clash and wis - dom wanes, as gain for what the world ad-mires as is not the es - sence Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the ev - 'ry you bid us choose in the hour pow'r of love, the of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and through all tru - er strength, space the host pro pow'r, great - est that love her - ald God's do may pit - ied plight. might, be cause he hu mans' claims the name a - bove all oth er names. main, and you, at last, may come reign. to

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: CHRIST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 2008 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

NICENE CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Fathert,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

With all who look to the coming of Christ, we raise our voices in praise of God's work.

For the Church; for all who raise their voices to tell the good news of life everlasting, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

Alleluia! Amen!

For creation; for the lengthening of days and the beauty of spring that remind us that God's life is abundant and eternal, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

Alleluia! Amen!

For the nations; for those who work for international peace and harmony, for those who serve the common good, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

Alleluia! Amen!

For your healing and wholeness for the sick and suffering; for God's gifts of science and medicine, and for those who share these gifts with others, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

Alleluia! Amen!

For all who have claimed baptismal promises: for Mary and Peter, John, Jiřī, Mary, Elizabeth; for our beloved dead; and for the promise of new life—the promise of baptism—which holds us until we join with them around the Feast of the Lamb, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

Alleluia! Amen!

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace of the crucified-risen one, Jesus.

Alleluia! Amen!

THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen 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 mission and ministry of the Church. Tonight's offering goes to the Erie Lutheran Conference to support our gatherings and resourcing. Your offering will be recorded for your congregation and processed through Luther Memorial. You may make all checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, if you'd rather give electronically, you may do so by scanning the QR Code or following: bit.ly/LMCDonate and scrolling to the bottom of the page.

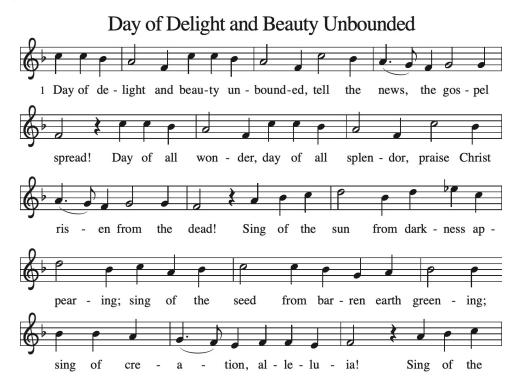
ANTHEM -"I Will Go Up"

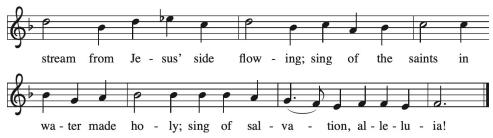
M. Joncas

Conference Choir

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

OFFERING HYMN ACS 933





Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

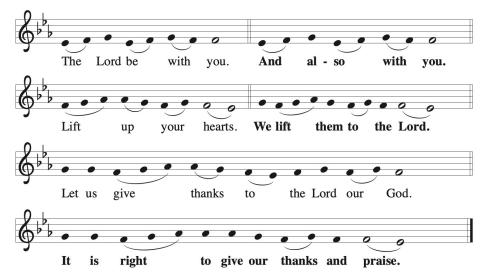
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

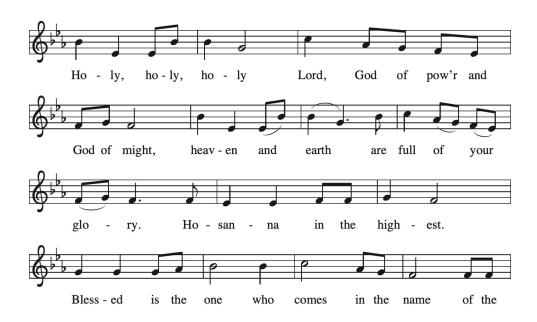
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA



THE PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

As the shadows lengthen, we bless you, sheltering God.

We glorify you for the endless, starlit sky, deep with the mystery of your creative labor through all time and space. We praise you for the fertile earth and for the life its darkness holds and births: plants of every variety, animals curled in sleep, humankind you shaped by your own hand.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

Through the night you led your people into freedom. At day's end you rained down manna in the wilderness. At sundown your Son brought healing to people in need. In the midday night when Jesus died on the cross, life came forth for all.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

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.

Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Like a mother hen, hold us close through the coming night. Watch with those who labor, accompany those who long for peaceful sleep, welcome those whose waking will be only in you. Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, make here the body of Christ: in the breaking of the bread, in justice for our broken world, in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

To you, O God, painter of both night and day, guiding star and healing sun, breath of peace and wind of change, be all glory, all honor, all praise this night unto the coming dawn, 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.

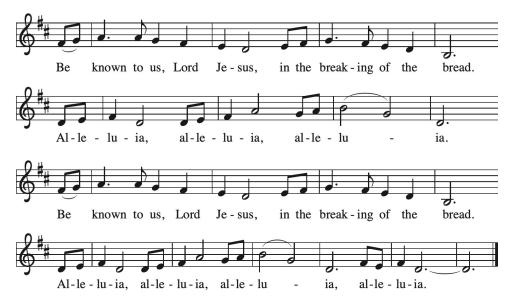
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM



Please be seated.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

Look, the Sight Is Glorious



- 1 Look, oh, look, the sight is glo rious, see the man of sor-rows now;
- 2 Crown the Sav-ior! An-gels crown him! Rich the tro-phies Je-sus brings;
- 3 Sin ners in de ri-sion crowned him, mock-ing thus the Sav-ior's claim;
- 4 Hark! Those bursts of ac cla ma tion! Hark! Those loud tri um-phant chords!



from the fight re-turned vic - to - rious, ev - 'ry knee to him shall bow. on the seat of pow'r en-throne him while the vault of saints and an - gels crowd a - round him, own his ti - tle, praise his name. Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion; oh, what joy the sight af - fords!



Crown him! Crown him!

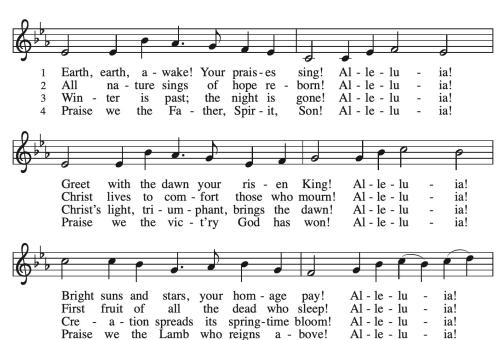


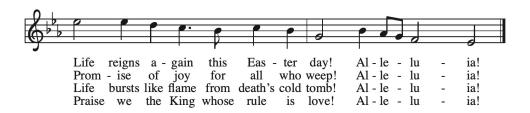
Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow. Crowns be-come the Crown the Sav - ior, King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior, King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior, King of kings. Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame! Spread a - broad the King of kings and Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt. Music: BRYN CALFARIA, William Owen, 1814–1893

ACS 937

Earth, Earth, Awake!





Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 Music: STUEMPFLE, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952 Text and music © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

ELW 392

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus





Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION HYMN

ACS 933

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN ELW 878





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

The Lord with the sound of the trumpet! Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – "Te Deum" M. A. Charpentier

Trumpet: Brian Gray (Faith Lutheran)

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Please be sure to stay awhile
to visit and continue the celebrations.
There is a festive reception in the Parlor.
To access the parlor,
you may use either door at the front of the Sanctuary.
(The door near the pulpit has accessibility.)
Heading up the ramp and/or stairs,
the Parlor is on the other side of the Altar Wall.

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING

AT THE ALTAR

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell Pastor Loci
PREACHING MINISTER	The Rev. Jean N. Kuebler Dean, Erie Lutheran Conference Pastor, Faith, Harborcreek
Assisting Minister	Shari Repoff Faith, Harborcreek
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Marcia Groce St. Peter's, North East
LECTOR	Gretchen Andrews St. Paul's, Erie
ALTAR GUILD	Cathie Dugan Chair, Worship and Music, Luther Memorial, Erie
AT TI	HE PROCESSIONS
Crucifer_	Gabe Stroup
BOOKBEARER	
JUBILATION STREAMER	C. Noelle Partusch Luther Memorial, Erie
In	THE BALCONY
Primary Musician	Bryan Timm, F.A.I.O. **Cantor Loci**
CHOIR	Friends and Members of ELC Congregations
VIDEO STREAMING	Christy AdamsLuther Memorial, Erie

Clergy under call in the Erie Lutheran Conference are: The Rev. Jean Kuebler, Faith, Harborcreek; The Rev. Matt Dennison, St. Peter's, Northeast; The Rev. Ron Freebourn, St. Peter's, McKean & Trinity, McKean; The Rev. Tom Glasoe, Messiah, Wesleyville; The Rev. Jay Mitchell, Luther Memorial, Erie; The Rev. Kristen Papson, Lamb of God & Mt. Calvary, Erie; The Rev. Owen Rhoades, New Jerusalem, Erie; The Rev. Erik Young, St. Paul's Erie.

Clergy contracted to serve in the Erie Lutheran Conference are: The Rev. Bill Cox, Prince of Peace, Greene Township; The Rev. Karen Kostur, Immanuel, Erie; The Rev. Karen Parsh, Abiding Hope, Erie; The Rev. Karen Thompson, St. James', Fairview & St. John's, Girard;

Authorized Lay Worship Leaders serving Congregations in Erie Lutheran Conference are: Ron King, Holy Trinity, Erie.

Retired Clergy residents in Erie Lutheran Conference are: The Rev. John Coleman; The Rev. Andrew Edwards; The Rev. Mark Fischer; The Rev. Kimberly Hirsch; The Rev. Dr. Karen Lundwall; The Rev. Ralph Mineo; The Rev. Brian Moran; The Rev. Beth Siefert; The Rev. Ken Thompson; The Rev. Gail Zackrison.

Pastoral Interns serving in Erie Lutheran Conference are: Vicar Michael Snider, St. James, Fairview & St. John's, Girard.

Congregations in Transition in Erie Lutheran Conference are: St. John's, Erie; St. Mark's Waterford.



The Erie Lutheran Conference—17 congregations in Erie County—is looking toward the future of ministry in our area. Serving in our conference are only four full-time equivalent pastors. And of the 17 congregations, only 4 have a full time pastor (the other FTE pastors are shared between two congregations). In 5-10, the number of full time pastors (not retired) will very likely be only 3. This is not a reason to fear or fret but a reason to open our hearts, minds, eyes, and ears to the various ways that God is calling us into the future! The Church of Jesus will stand the tests of time...whether it looks like it does today or not is only known to Jesus. As part of this planning and

dreaming, folks have gotten together as a taskforce to consider models of collaborative ministry in our area. But this is not work just for a few people sometimes, but work that we are all called to do in God's future. In our planning and dreaming, we are looking toward what ministry looks like years down the road. As part of this dreaming and planning, YOU are invited to fill out a survey to assess the positions, feelings, hopes, and dreams of the Lutherans in Erie County. To take the survey, you can follow the QR Code, or follow: https://forms.gle/nw9Sr4K6vQ9TMS928 to take the survey online.

Readings and Commemorations

May 26 – Psalm 93; I Chronicles 12:16-22; Revelation 21:5-14

May 27 – John Calvin, renewer of the church, 1564 – Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 8; Romans 8:28-30; John 15:1-11 -- Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

May 28 – Psalm 93; II Chronicles 34:20-33; Luke 2:25-38

May 29 – Jiřī Tranovský hymnwriter, 1637 – II Chronicles 20:20-21; Psalm 96; Ephesians 5:18b-20; Matthew 13:44-52 -- Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

May 30 – Psalm 97; Exodus 33:12-17; Revelation 22:6-9

May 31 – THE VISIT OF MARY TO ELIZABETH – I Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 113; Romans 12:9-16b; Luke 1:39-57 -- This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

June 1 – Justin, martyr at Rome, 165 – Psalm 16:5-11; I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 12:44-50 -- Born of pagan parents, Justin Martyr was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

