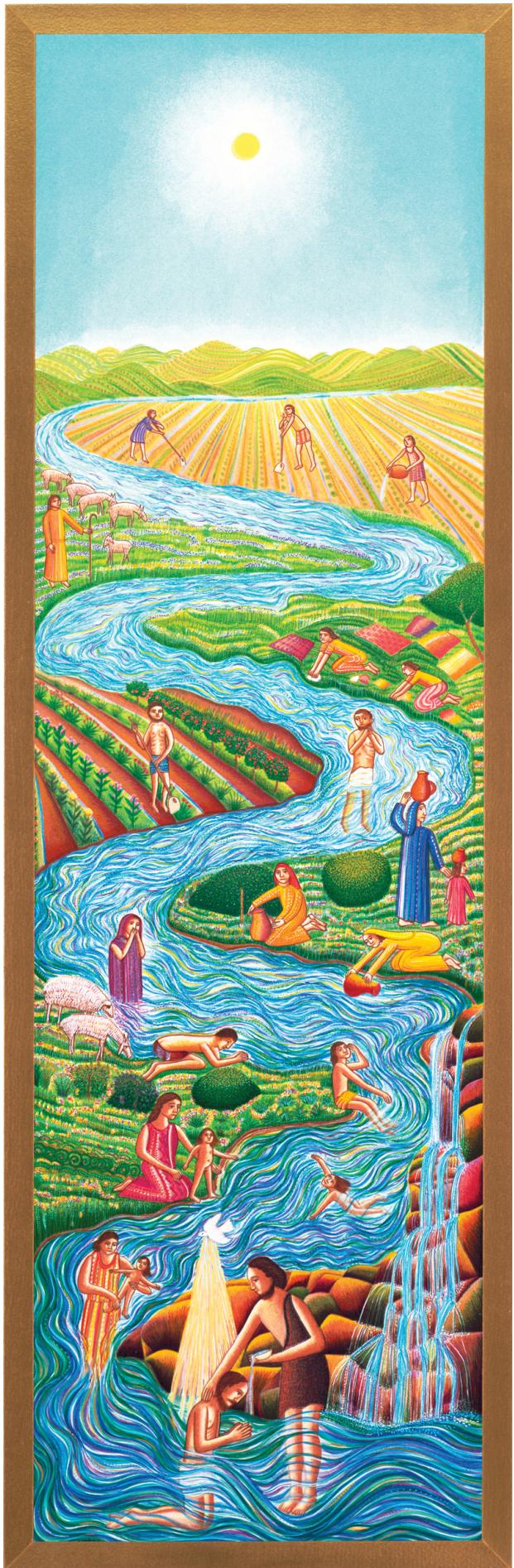


Welcome to  
Luther Memorial Church

11 JANUARY 2026  
**THE BAPTISM  
OF OUR LORD,**  
*Season after the Epiphany*  
10:30 am





# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

## WELCOME!

COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

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

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

- Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.

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

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

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

## GATHERING

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

**PRELUDE** – "Freut euch, ihr lieben"

B. Culli

*Please rise in body or spirit and face the procession.*

### **GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 311**

#### Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's anoint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - - - ui - - - ty.  
pre - cious in - - - your - - - sight.  
hill to val - - - ley - - - flow.  
king - dom with - - - out - - - end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.  
Music: FREUT EÜCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

### **GREETING**

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

## GLORIA

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Father. Amen.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your children, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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.*

## BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray: Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon Linda as she proclaims the Word, so that all who receive it will no longer dwell in the shadows, but will have the light of life.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; upon whom I have put my spirit, to bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>Not crying out, not lifting up his voice, not making it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed my servant will not break, nor quench a dimly burning wick, but will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>My chosen one will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM: Psalm 29

The antiphon is introduced by the choir and repeated by all, and then where indicated. The choir and congregation sing the verses of the psalm responsively.

### Antiphon



### Tone



<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;**  
**worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;**  
**the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor.** *Antiphon*

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,**  
**and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice | of the Lord  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;**  
**the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.** *Antiphon*

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;**  
**the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

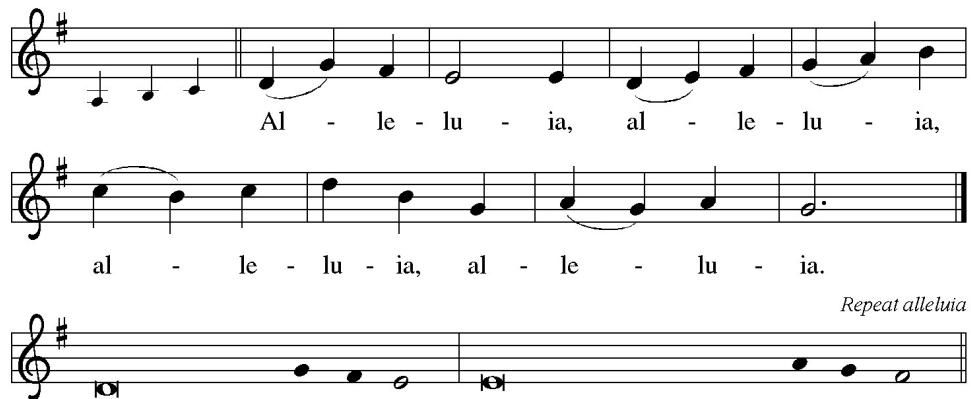
<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace. *Antiphon*

## SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every people anyone who is God-fearing and practices righteousness is acceptable to God. <sup>36</sup>You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised Jesus on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

*A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."*

## GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Jesus, and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Child, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.*

## SERMON

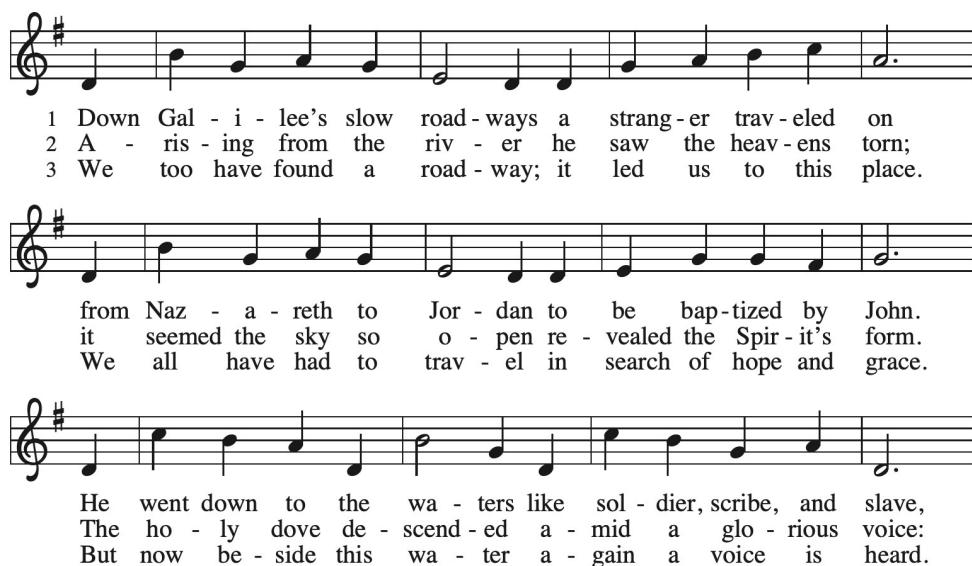
Pastor Jay

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ACS 916**

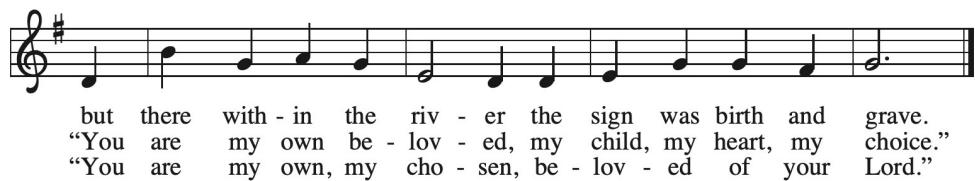
**Down Galilee's Slow Roadways**



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on  
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;  
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.

from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.

He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

*The congregation faces the ministers at the font. Those being received into membership in the church join the ministers at the font.*

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM WITH THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### PRAYER

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

*The presiding minister may note briefly the occasion for this affirmation.*

Let us pray.

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

**Amen.**

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

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

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,  
 the powers of this world that rebel against God,  
 and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the congregation.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*When the congregation is making affirmation of baptism, the presiding minister addresses them.*

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

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

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

### **THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

### **PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*A representative of the congregation may introduce each new member or household.*

Name/s have come to our congregation from name of congregation in location.

### **ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS**

*The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.*

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Siblings* in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

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

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these* new *members* in *their* life in Christ?

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

*The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people 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.

**Amen.**

## WELCOME

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to Luther Memorial.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

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

*The congregation offers acclamation with applause.*

## SPRINKLING SONG

*As a reminder of Baptism, the congregation is sprinkled with water.*

ELW 304

### Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death you then o - obeyed the  
Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do,  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561  
Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Guide Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all who serve your Church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. We especially pray for the Church in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. We also hold in prayer our synod, particularly the congregation of First and our partner ministry at Thiel College. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Bring justice, mercy, and peace to those places where war and strife lay heavy: Venezuela, the Caribbean, Ukraine, Palestine, the United States. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill particularly those whose names and needs we hold close to our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for Betsy and Ross, Zach and Ron, Jack and Jane, Bryan and Michael, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for Judith, Martin, Antony, Pachomius, and all those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray your loving-kindness, O God, made known to us in Jesus.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ Child be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING



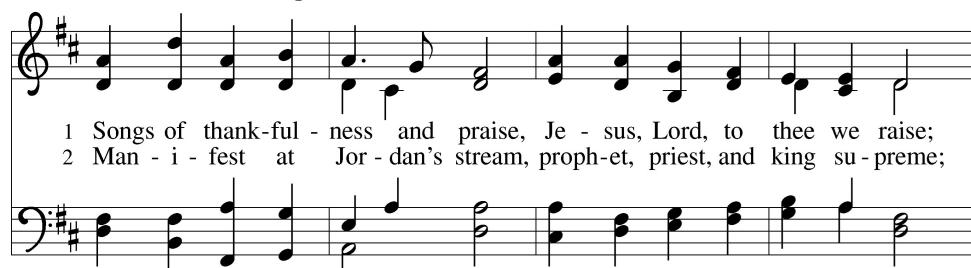
*An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING – Voluntary

## OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 310

### Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;

an - themes be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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-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.

## EUCARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

*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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance 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.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Behold what you are; become what you receive: the Body of Christ broken and shared for the world.

**Amen. We come.**

For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: 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

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.

## When Jesus Came to Jordan

ELW 305

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
 Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune  
 Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

## Come, Beloved of the Maker

ELW 306

1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -  
 2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those  
 3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low  
 4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -  
 5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose

hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's  
 bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in  
 to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of  
 splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and  
 glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and

spen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.  
 wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."  
 an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.  
 height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.  
 splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957  
 Text © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

## TABLE BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -pared in the  
sight of ev - ry peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the na - tions  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### SENDING

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

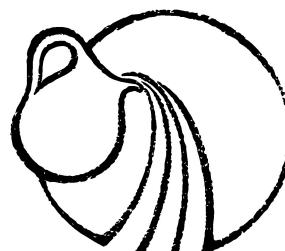
### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please rise in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.*

### BLESSING

...now and forever.

**Amen.**



## Baptized and Set Free

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE – "Prelude sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie"**

M. Durufle

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*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* – Pat Bellingham  
*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Linda Graffius  
*LECTOR* – Linda Mellaragno  
*USHER* – Betty Pletz  
*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke  
*VIDEO STREAMING* – Gina Snider



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God from Jan and Skip MacInnes with prayers that God's blessing be with us all in this new year, 2026. May faith, hope and love abide in you.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Judith Steff who died January 6. Our prayers are with her husband, John. A private service will be held in Pittsburgh. If you would like to send a card to John, please send it to Nightingale Nursing and Rehab. Center, 607 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 2309, Erie, PA 16504.

**Today's Events**

**A joyous welcome** is extended to those who will be received as new members this morning.

Betsy & Ross Brumagin  
Jane & Jack Tell

Zach & Ron Middaugh  
Bryan Timm & Michael Patterson

**A reception** will be held after the 10:30am service in the parlor to welcome our newest members.

**Confirmation students**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will gather this morning following the 10:30am worship service for the second of four workshops held throughout the year. These workshops are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in odd months (**January 11, March 8, May 10**) 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 7<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to each confirmand.

**Worship Matters!**

**About the Hymn of the Day:**

A text by the late Sylvia Dunstan, a minister in the United Church of Canada, is combined with a tune by Hal Hopson, a prolific composer of church music. This hymn relates the story of Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River, an event to which he came with the unassuming throngs of ordinary people (soldiers, scribes, and slaves) but which revealed him as the Son of God through a voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit like a dove. Because we are joined to Jesus through our own baptism, God claims us also as beloved children.

About the **Bulletin Cover Art**: The artist, John August Swanson, writes: "Communities are formed around rivers. Farmers irrigate their crops; shepherds bring their flocks to drink; people wash their bodies and their clothes as they collect clean drinking water; children play and swim. The River reminds me of our need to keep growing in understanding and compassion for all people, and to see our common source. It supplies the water of life to all of us as it winds along its course. Each person shares in the river's blessing. My mother was raised in the isolated Sierra Nevada Mountains of Mexico. On the feast of Saint John the Baptist, her family would go to the river to have a picnic and bathe in the water. In India each year, millions of Hindus bathe in the Ganges River in a ritual of spiritual cleansing. Some of our rituals look ordinary and some are special celebrations, but each is integral to who we are, and they connect us to our ancestors and descendants."

## Worship

**Altar flowers** are available for Sunday, January 25. If you would like to place flowers on the altar please contact Norma in the church office. Thank you.

**Prayers Arise**, a Service of Evening Prayer in the spirit of Holden Village, will be offered each Wednesday in January at 6:00pm. We will gather on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for this half hour Vespers Service; January 14, 21 and 28.

## Faith Formation for All Ages

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. We will meet January 15, 22 and 29.

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We are using Josh Scott's book *Parables: Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place*. If you would like to order your book from the church office, the cost is \$14. You may also order your own. **YOU** are invited to join us! There will not be a gathering in January, our next gathering is on February 3.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation are appreciated to the church office by Sunday, January 11, 2026. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 25, and copies will be available to the congregation.

Children in PreK-grade 9 will enjoy a movie and snacks during the Congregational Meeting. We will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

## 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. Begin 2026 with us on Tuesday, January 13. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

## Lenten Preparations

**It's time** to begin thinking about Lent and our Wednesday lunches. A meeting to discuss a plan for this is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20 at 11:00am in the parlor. Anyone and everyone interested in helping with cooking, setup or cleaning is asked to please attend. Please contact Norma in the church office or Betty Pletz at 814-898-1053 with any questions.

## “Music for a Sunday Morning”

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church** will be dedicating its new organ console and honoring Vicki Baldwin, our late organist and choir director for 33 years, on Sunday, January 18 at 2:30pm.

Please join us for a program of “Music for a Sunday Morning” featuring Dr. Chris Petit, music director and organist at St. Paul’s Episcopal, Phil Baldwin, violinist, and Margaret Andreso, soprano. In addition to their musical selections, there will be a hymn sing of favorites chosen by members of Mt. Calvary. Mt. Calvary is located at 1603 West 32<sup>nd</sup> St at the corner of Greengarden Blvd. All are invited.

## Items to Note

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

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

Thank you to all the people who generously donated books to the Luther Memorial Library during our December Book Fair. The students are very excited to check out the new books. Because of your caring hearts, we added 25 new books to the library.

I am truly humbled and grateful for your continued support of the school and our students.

Again, thank you  
Luther Memorial Students and Kim Evans, librarian

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Dorothy Youngman	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Peyton Thomas	Jeanne Gaber
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Jeff Monroe
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Shirley	Judy
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	David Gilbert	Debbie Betit	Haven Schaefer
Katja & family	Carl Larese	Peter Maker	Linda F.
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Gail Lesuer		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

Readings and Commemoration This Week

**January 12** – Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48

**January 13** – Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-113

**January 14** – Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21

**January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968** – Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12 -- *An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.*

**January 16** – Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5

**January 17 – Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, 356 and Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346** – Psalm 40:1-11; I Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11 -- *One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor. And born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.*

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 12</b>	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 13</b>	10:00am	Magic Fingers Grace Group
	5:00pm	LMA Basketball Practice
	5:30pm	LIA
	6:00pm	Church Council
	6:00pm	Concert Event Rehearsal
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14</b>	6:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 15</b>	12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
	1:00pm	Grief Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:00pm	LMA Basketball Practice
	5:30pm	Handbells Rehearsal
	6:45pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 16</b>		
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 17</b>	10:00am	Quilting

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Chloe Meucci
Communion Assistant ( <i>I needed</i> )	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector ( <i>I needed</i> )	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Cindy Hedlund, Stan Rose
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Betty Pletz

