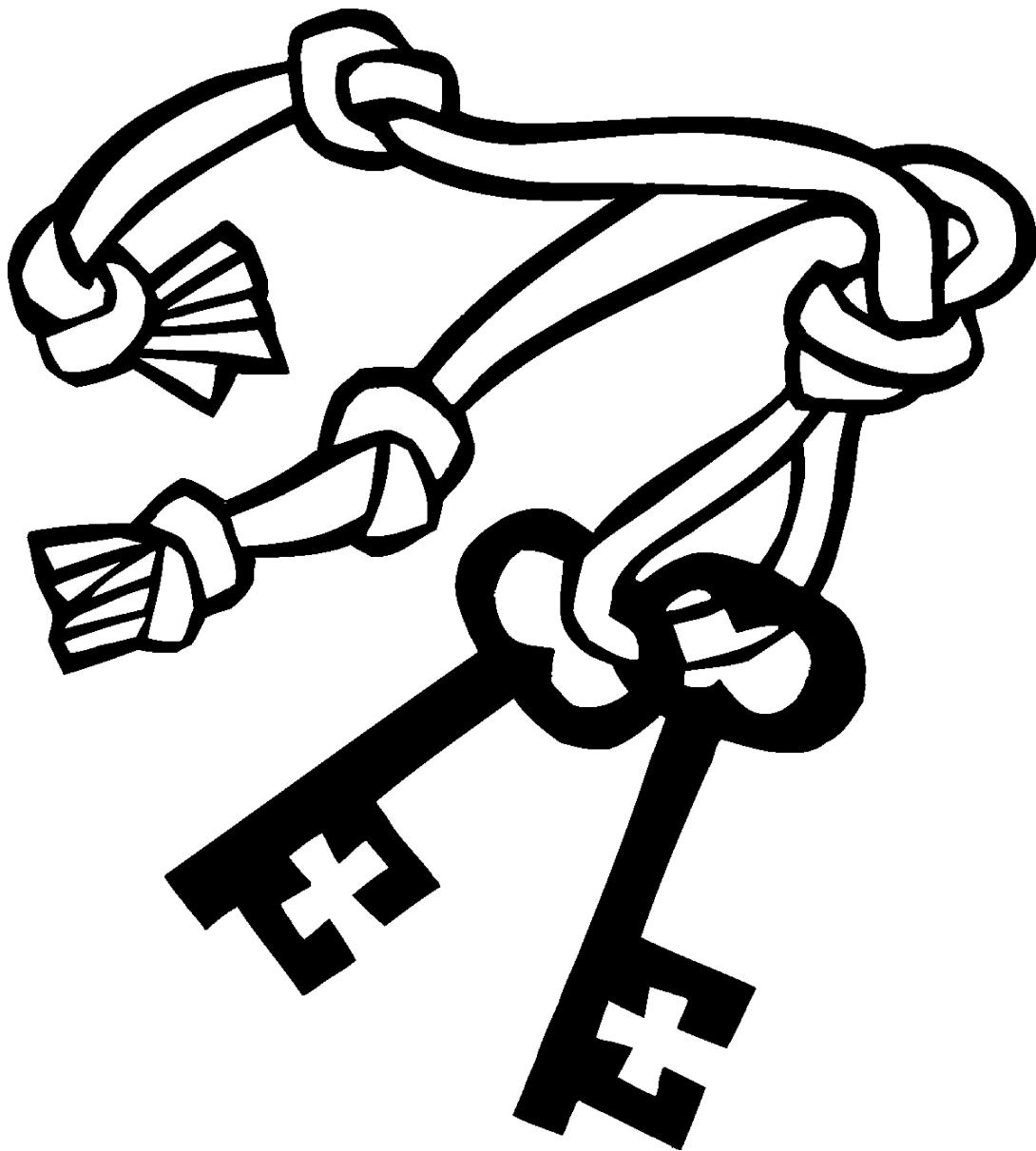


Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



18 JANUARY 2026
THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER,
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 – "Merle's Tune"

B. Portman

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you.

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in [☩] Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 511

Thy Strong Word

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
thank thee, while thine or - dered - sea - sons run.
va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.

Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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.

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 -
alone 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 Fa - ther. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the living God. Keep your church firm on this rock, so that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

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 Bill as he 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: Acts 4:8-13

⁸Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the authorities, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

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

PSALM: Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19

The antiphon is introduced by the choir and repeated by all and again just once where indicated. The choir and the congregation sing the verses responsively.

Antiphon

My God, my rock, you are worthy of praise.

Tone

¹ I love you, O | Lord my strength,
O Lord my stronghold, my crag, | and my haven;
² my God, my rock in whom I | put my trust,
my shield, the horn of my salvation, | and my refuge. *Antiphon*

³ I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy | to be praised,
and so shall I be saved | from my enemies.

⁴ The breakers of death rolled | over me,
and the torrents of oblivion made | me afraid.

⁵ The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me,
and the snares of death were | set for me.

⁶ I called upon the Lord in my distress and cried out to my | God for help.

From the heavens the Lord heard my voice; my cry | reached God’s ears. *Antiphon*

¹⁶ You reached down from on | high and grasped me;
you drew me out | of great waters.

¹⁷ You delivered me from my strong enemies and from those who | hated me,
for they were too might- | y for me.

¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of | my disaster;
but you, Lord, were | my support.

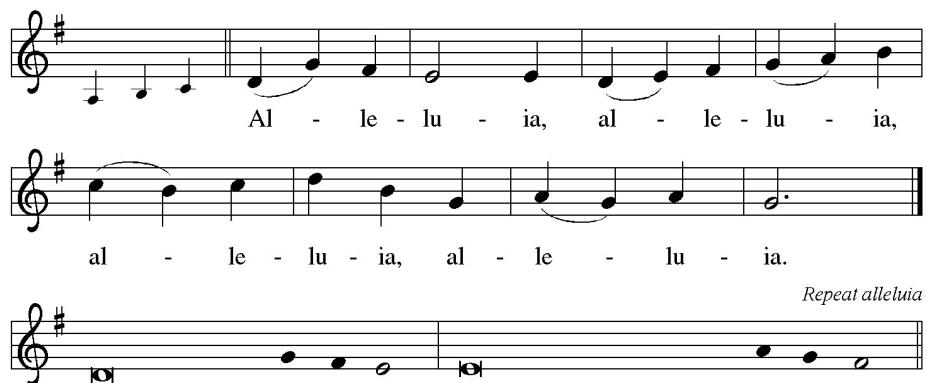
¹⁹ You brought me out into an | open place;
you rescued me because you delight- | ed in me. *Antiphon*

SECOND READING: I Peter 2:4-10

⁴Come to the Lord, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of the one who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light of God. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea¹ and Samaria, and to the end¹ of the earth.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-19

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son-of-Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

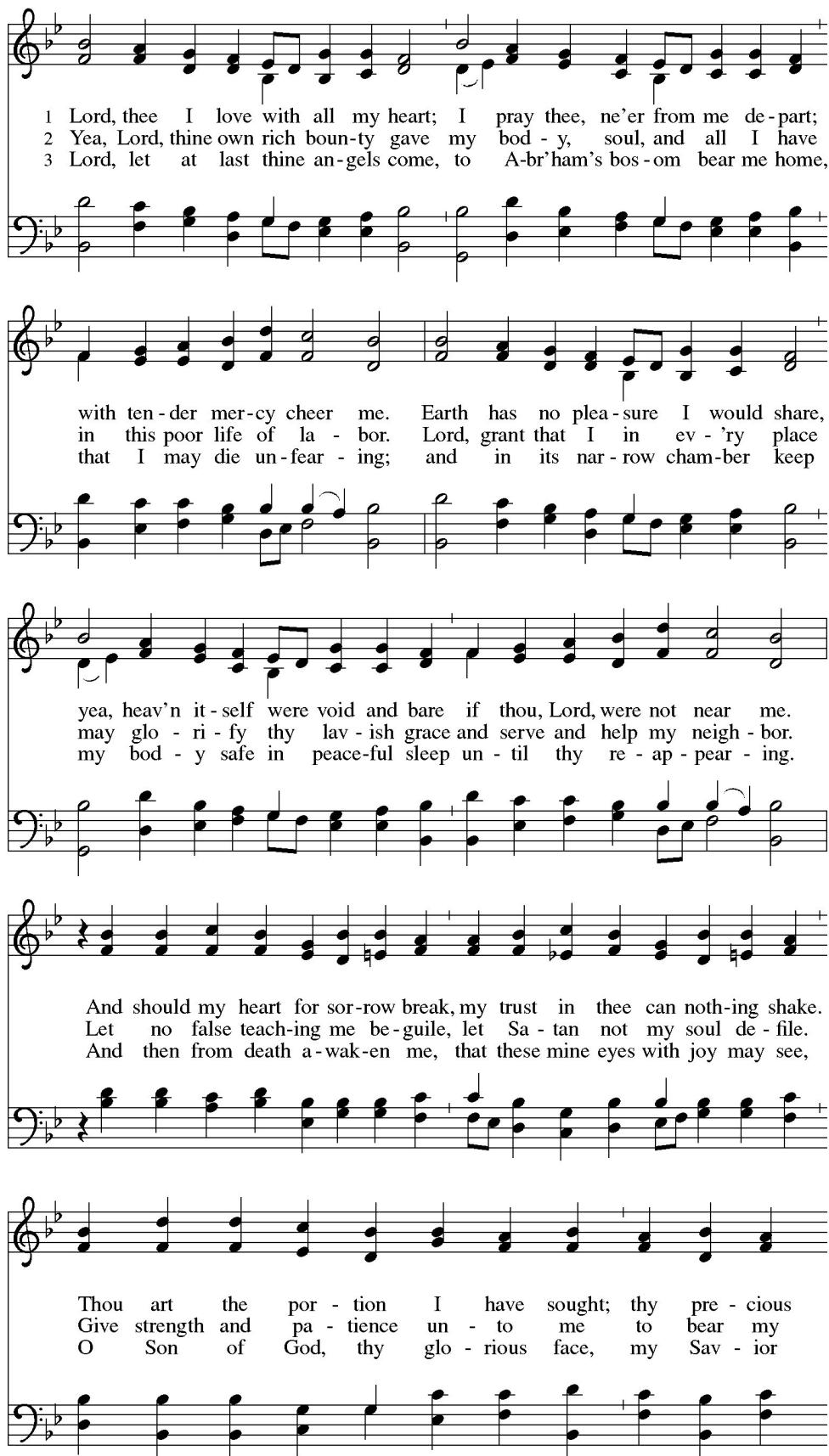
Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

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

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
 2 Yea, Lord, thine own rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
 3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bos - om bear me home,

with ten - der mer-cy cheer me. Earth has no plea - sure I would share,
 in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
 that I may die un-fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham-ber keep

yea, heav'n it - self were void and bare if thou, Lord, were not near me.
 may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh - bor.
 my bod - y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.

And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
 Let no false teach-ing me be - guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
 And then from death a-wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,

Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
 O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior

blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
 cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at - tend,

my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
 my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
 my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: HERZLICH LIEB, B. Schmid, *Orgeltabulaturbuch*, 1577

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

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

**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.**

**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.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Build your church upon a rock, gracious God. Let your forgiveness and salvation be spoken in every language and tongue. Guide Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all who serve your Church. Bless missionaries and mission organizations as they accompany and empower communities in your name. Uphold the Church in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. We pray also for our synod, for the congregation of First English and for Matthew and Doug, rostered ministers. Defend your church against all peril. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you led your faithful people through cloud and sea, lead us into right relationship with the earth. Bring healing rains to places of drought and bring gifts of sun and wind to flooded lands. Calm stormy seas and renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confront and disrupt the workings of greed, exploitation, and violence. Lead nations in doing justice and loving mercy. Show compassion to those who are imprisoned and liberate those who are held captive. Deliver all from the hands of those who would wish them harm especially Venezuela, the Caribbean, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, the United States, and all places where war and strife are visited upon your children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In Christ you give us the name by which we will be saved. Embrace any who are rejected or have lost their way. Release the anxious. Encourage the sick. Make your healing power known to those we hold dear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile us to one another, O God. Bring unity to your church. Bring peace to our relationships. Teach us to show grace to one another. When we cause harm, give us humble hearts to confess our shortcomings and ask for forgiveness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for Peter and for all your faithful people who have proclaimed Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Make bold our confession of faith. Give us confidence that we too will come with Ralph, Joyce, and all our beloved dead to know your promises of salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ Child be with you.
And also with you.

The congregation shares greetings and gestures of peace with one another. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Please be 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. You may scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page for online giving. If you are interested in electronic means of giving regularly, please call the church office.

MUSICAL OFFERING – Voluntary

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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 4. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;
 man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
 branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest, 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

*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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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. Red 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.*

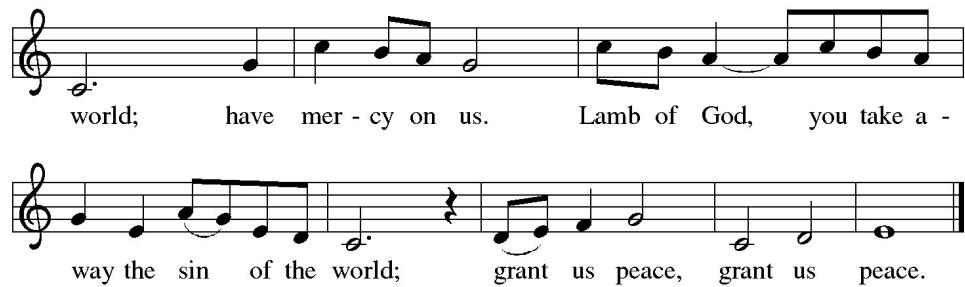
HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION



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.



ELW 652

Built on a Rock

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee-ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil-dren is

fall - ing; crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim-ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

1 My hope is built on nothing less than I
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant 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 ser - vant 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.

BLESSING

...now and forever.

Amen.



Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,
 ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
 Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,
 let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "Entrada"

N. Rawsthorne

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46819.

Scripture quotations have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSVUE Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. May be reproduced with a SundaysAndSeasons.com subscription for nonsale local use by worship leaders from September 1, 2022 through November 30, 2025.

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 – Chloe Meucci

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTOR – Bill Lasher

USHER – Betty Pletz

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

VIDEO STREAMING – Christy Adams



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Ralph W. Shaner, Jr. by his daughter, Sally Shaner-McAfee.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Joyce Zwilling who died January 10, 2026. Our prayers are with her daughter, Jeanne Gaber, and family. A service was held January 12, 2026.

Today's Events

Warm up with some home-made soup. Pick up a quart following the 10:30 service this morning.

Worship Matters!

Today we celebrate *The Confession of Peter* which is a Lesser Festival on our calendars. This kicks off the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the northern hemisphere. We are called to prayer and action for Jesus' hope that "they all may be one as you and I are one" come to be in our lifetime. The reason for this particular week to be set aside is precisely because of the celebrations of Peter and Paul that fall exactly one week apart. These two festivals commemorate the Princes of the Apostles, the two chief leaders of the early Jesus Movement—Peter in Jerusalem among The Twelve and Paul among the Gentiles throughout the Roman Empire (mostly eastern). Historically—and according to Scripture—we know that these two leaders often clashed on their understanding not only of who is called to be a part of the community of Jesus believers but also of what belonging to the community entailed. This is not surprising since Peter experienced the physical, historical Jesus and Paul experienced the risen and ascended Christ in a vision only. To us today, the reminder is that even where there may be profound and deep differences, nevertheless, we are called to oneness around Jesus Christ. In a world full of thousands (the last tabulation was an *estimate* of about 45,000 specific and individual groups of Christianity), many of whom separated from one another hundreds (if not thousands) of years ago over deep theological questions, the work of unity seems nearly impossible. But in the One Christ may we all be One.

Worship

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

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 were 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 gather on the 5th floor for some fun activities during the Annual Meeting.

Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

Clarinet Adventures invites you to a performance in our main church on Sunday, January 25 at 4:00pm. Clarinet Adventures is an amateur clarinet quartet playing music that ranges from classical to contemporary jazz. A reception will follow in the parlor.

Faith Formation for All Ages

Brown Bag Bible (B³) gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. We will meet January 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.

Four workshops for confirmation students, 7th grade through 9th grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: **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 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Cash Bingo will be held Friday, January 30 at 7:00pm in fellowship hall. Doors will open at 6:15pm. Kick the winter blahs and have some fun; tip boards, games of chance and BINGO. Please stop by the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings to reserve your spot!

“Souper” Bowl Tasting gathering will be held Sunday, February 1 at 11:30am in fellowship hall. We invite you to whip up a batch of your favorite soup to share. Tables will be set up in fellowship hall for each different soup and everyone will have an opportunity to take a taste. Bring some soup and stop down for a taste of goodness! Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

A Valentine luncheon for our OWLS will be held Friday, February 13 from 11:00am – 1:00pm in our church parlor. All are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share and spend a lovely time together celebrating Valentine’s Day. Reservations for the previously scheduled luncheon at the Ambassador were full. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476 if you plan to attend.

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, February 20 and 24, from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

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 this afternoon at 2:30.

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 Andraso, 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 32nd 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.

— 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	Linda F.	Jeff Monroe
Gail Lesuer	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Shirley	Judy
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	Haven Schaefer
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Carl Larese		
Grief:			
Judith Steff family	Joyce Zwilling family	Treibor family	
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 19 – Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156 – Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40 -- *When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.*

January 20 – Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-14

January 21 – Agnes, martyr, 304 – Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17 -- *Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.*

January 22 – Psalm 27:1-6; I Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24

January 23 – Psalm 27:1-6; I Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10

January 24 – Psalm 27:1-6; I Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32

MONDAY, JANUARY 19
(Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

LMA & church offices closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20	11:00am	Lenten Luncheon Meeting
	3:00pm	School Board (virtual)
	5:00pm	LMA Basketball Practice
	6:00pm	LMA Lego League
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21	6:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22	12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
	1:00pm	Grief Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:30pm	Handbells Rehearsal
	6:00pm	LMA Legos
	6:45pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23	5:30pm	Youth Movie Night

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

Worship with us at 10:30am in the main church. The 8:15am service will not be held.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30am service.

Clarinet Adventures Quartet will present a program at 4:00pm in the main church; reception following.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant (<i>I needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>I needed</i>)	10:30am	Lee Swenson
Altar Guild	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Mike Hedlund, Martha Klomp
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Betty Pletz, Linda Graffius

