

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



25 JANUARY 2026
THE CONVERSION OF PAUL,
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 PRYLINSKI

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 worshipping 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).

PRELUDE – "Kelvingrove"

J. Biery

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION 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, our God.

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

Thy Strong Word

ELW 511

3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth

thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er

glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.

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!

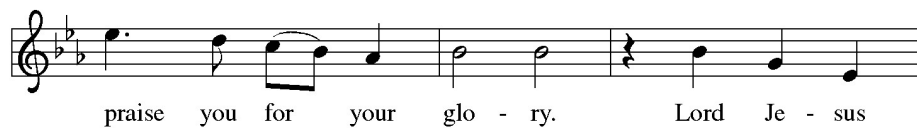
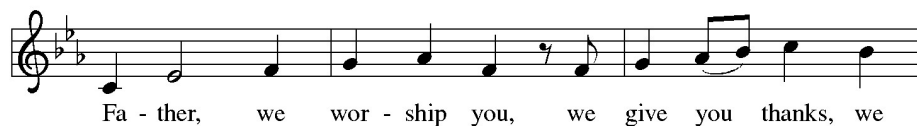
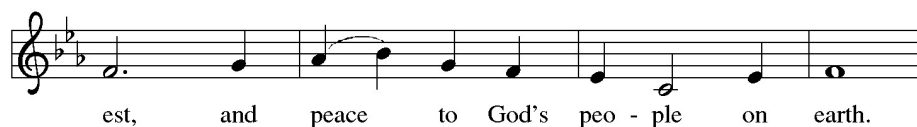
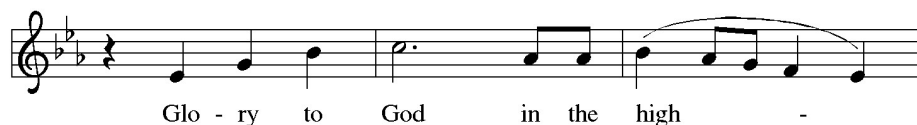
6 God the Father, light-creator,
to thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
praise the holy Trinity!

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, 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 Lee 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: Acts 9:1-22

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do

you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and rulers and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days Saul was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “Jesus is the Son of God.” ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” ²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jewish people who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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

PSALM: Psalm 67

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



Tone



¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth. Antiphon**

⁵ Let the peoples | praise you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. Antiphon

SECOND READING: Galatians 1:11-24

¹¹I want you to know, my dear family, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin, ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God who had set me apart before I was born and called me through grace was pleased ¹⁶to reveal the Son of God to me, so that I might proclaim Christ among the gentiles, I did not confer with any human, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. ¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days, ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses

GOSPEL: Luke 21:10-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰Jesus said to the disciples, "Nation will rise against nation and country against country; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before rulers and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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.

Faith of Our Mothers



1. Faith of our moth - ers, liv - ing still, through gifts de - rid - ed,
 2. Faith of our sis - ters, serv - ing still, with towel and ba - sin,
 3. Faith of our daugh - ters, hop - ing still, ven - tur - ing path - ways
 4. Faith of our fam - 'lies, grow - ing still, var - ied in gen - der,



calls de - nied, striv - ing un - daunt - ed through the years,
 cup and bread, tend - ing earth's needs with pa - tient care,
 yet un - trod, part - ners in wit - ness to the world,
 class, and race, patch-work of pat - terns, shapes, and hues,



till bolt - ed doors have o - pened wide; faith of our moth - ers,
 till hurts are healed and hun - gers fed: faith of our sis - ters'
 seek - ing a liv - ing, mov - ing God: faith of our daugh - ters,
 vast as the man - tle of God's grace: faith of our fam - 'lies,



firm and strong: voic - es long si - lenced rise in song!
 art and skill, lov - ing with heart and mind and will.
 bold and true, rest - less till Christ makes all things new.
 grow - ing faith, we hon - or you in life and death.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953 © 2017, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henry F. Hemy, 1818-1888; adapt. James G. Watson, 1821-1905

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.

Grant humility to your church, O God, that we honor the testimonies of those who seem unlikely witnesses to your work. Guide Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all who serve your Church. Remove from us all prejudice, opening us to wisdom that challenges and extends more widely the church's ministry. Uphold the Church in Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye. We pray for our synod, for the congregation of Gethsemane and our own Erie Conference. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth and bring forth its increase. Rescue lands from famine and disease. Send aid to places rebuilding after earthquakes and storms. Support the work of scientists, conservationists, and all who seek to preserve the goodness of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nation rises against nation, O God, even as we pray for your peace. Bring an end to international conflicts and religious persecution. Ensure fair and equitable treatment in courts of law. Give integrity to legislators and those who enforce the law. Bring peace to wherever war and strife are daily realities: Venezuela, the Caribbean, Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, the United States. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show us the depths of your mercy through the work of caregivers, advocates, and health care workers. Give strength and patience to those who accompany others through times of illness, uncertainty, or pain. Bring your saving health to those in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for gifts of food, water, and nourishment. Bless farmers and restaurant workers, bakers and grocery store workers, food pantry volunteers and family members who cook daily meals. Encourage us to share food with those who are hungry, that they regain their strength. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the saints, especially Paul, and for Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, Phoebe, Thomas, and all believers who have been transformed by your love and power. Lead us by their endurance and example. 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 be with you.

And also with you.

Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you. We gather around the Table. Please leave seats for those who may need them. Please be seated.

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 310

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 - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God of our ancestors, friend in our midst, your children come before you. Here is food! Here is drink! These things are yours before they are ours. Now we are making a feast, but it is a thanksgiving: God, we are thanking you. With our ancestors in faith and all the hosts of heaven, O God, we thank you and rejoice. This food—we shall eat it in your honor! This drink—we shall drink it in your honor!

We thank you for giving us life; for bringing us peace; for the one who bore our sins upon the cross; for the one who brought us over from death to life.

Amen. We thank you!

Holy One, send the Spirit of life, the Spirit of power and fruitfulness. With the Spirit's breath, speak your Word into these things. Give us who eat and drink the living body and the lifeblood of Jesus, our brother, life and power and fruitfulness of heart and body. Give us true communion with your Son.

*On the night of his suffering,
he gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands.
This bread he shared among his followers, saying:
All of you, take this, eat this;
it is my body, handed over for you.
Do this and remember me.*

*Then he shared drink with them, saying:
All of you, take this, drink this;
it is my blood, the blood of the new covenant
that begins now and lasts forever.
This blood is poured out for you and for all people
so that sins may be taken away.
Do this and remember me.*

Lord, you are resurrection and life. You, Crucifixion, are here! You, Resurrection, are here! You, Ascension, are here! You, Spirit—Medicine of Life—are here! Holy One, bring us life; give us kinship and fellowship with Mary, the mother of our Lord, with all the elders and ancestors of your people, and with all your children.

And you, our prayer—Prayer of the long-distant past; you, ancient Word, spoken by the Creator; you, Breath of the Spirit—Prayer of the ancestors, you are spoken now!

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.

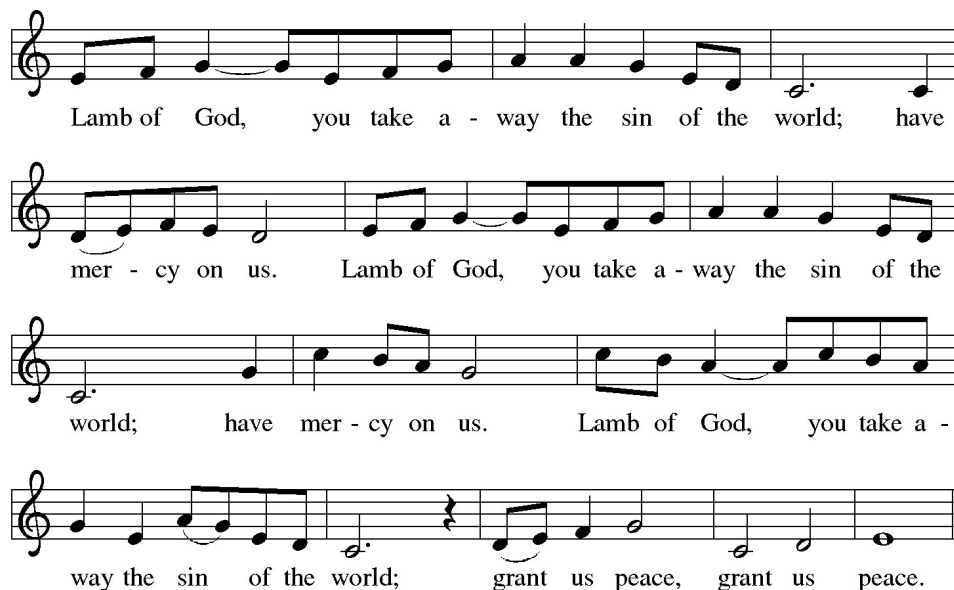
For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

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

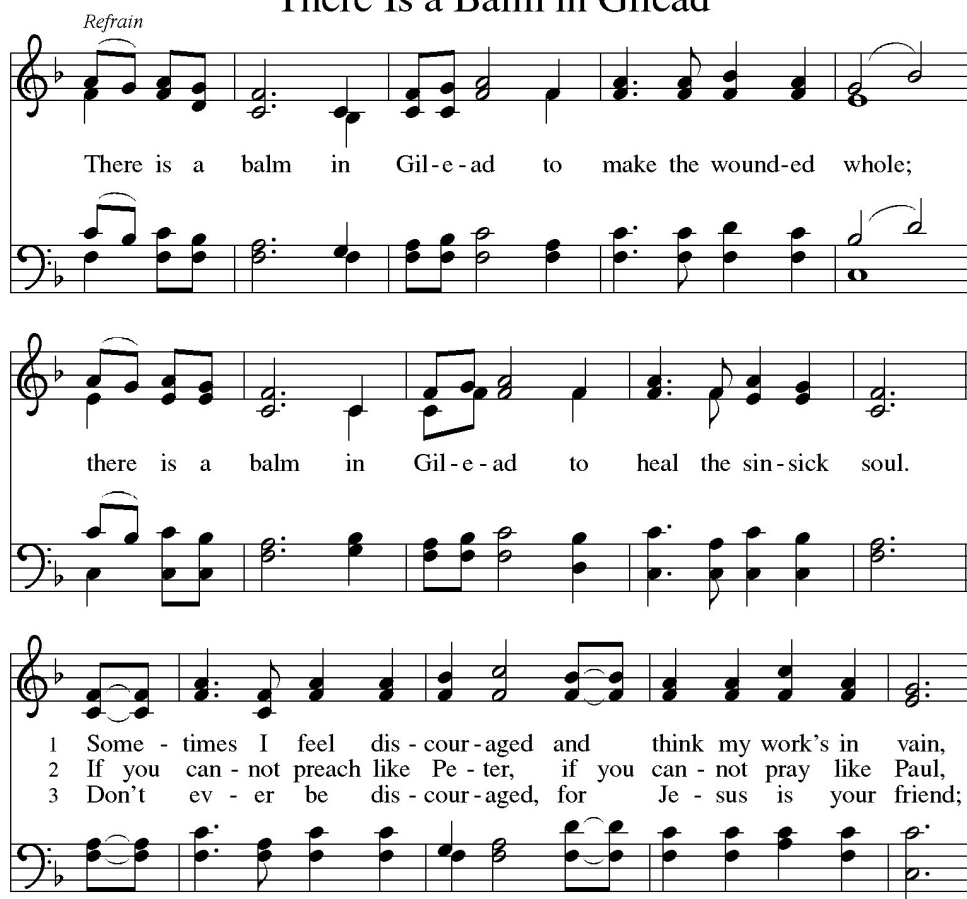


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

ELW 614

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

ELW 759

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

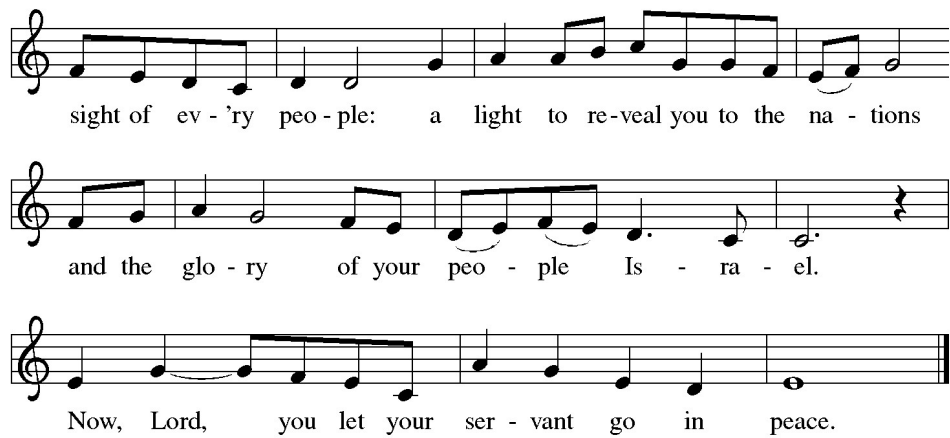
Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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



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.

SENDING HYMN

ACS 1000

God's Work, Our Hands





Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,

 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God!

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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 – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose

LECTOR – Lee Swenson

USHERS – Linda Graffius, Betty Pletz

ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our children and grandchildren by Nancy and Rob Benacci.

Today's Events

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following the 10:30 service this morning. The Annual Report was emailed and hard copies are available this morning.

Children in PreK-grade 9 will gather on the 5th floor for some fun activities during this morning's meeting.

Clarinet Adventures invites you to a performance in our main church this afternoon at 4:00. Clarinet Adventures is an amateur clarinet quartet playing music that ranges from classical to contemporary jazz. A reception will follow in the parlor. Thank you to the Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series for offering this program today.

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 28.

Worship Matters!

Perhaps it's providential that we celebrate the Conversion of Paul on the same Sunday as our Annual Meeting. Paul, the great Church Planter and missionary, Paul the one on whose teaching so much of our doctrine rests, Paul the oft-imprisoned servant of God. But it should be noted that in quick succession after his feast as two commemorations of a group of six people who are closely associated with Paul. Tomorrow we remember Titus, Timothy, and Silas who were not just "missionaries" but were close companions of Paul. Indeed, Titus and Silas often travel with Paul and Timothy (after whom two books of the New Testament are named) seems to have been a pupil and disciple of Paul's, soon leading his own church communities. So, too, on Tuesday we remember Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe. Lydia—an independently wealthy dyer of purple cloth—was one of the earliest converts by Paul and his companions being baptized right in the water where she and some of the women were meeting and doing laundry. She would, as we learn, have her whole household baptized and would come to host a church in her home. Phoebe was a deacon and Paul calls her a co-worker in the Gospel. "We commend to you our sister Phoebe," he says in the letter to the Romans. It is believed that Phoebe was instrumental in delivering that letter to its intended recipients. And Dorcas—sometimes calls Tabitha—was a woman who was a fabric artist whose clothes and accessories were much beloved by the women (especially widows) in her community. She is one of the post-Jesus resurrection stories as well. Let us give thanks today and this week not just for Paul but for all those from various places and walks of life who carry in their hearts and on their lips the good news of God come near in Jesus.

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. Our next gathering is January 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

Second Sunday Soirée is held the second Sunday of each month at 9:15am in our parlor. It is a time to visit, catch up with friends, and enjoy some refreshments. Please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship. Our next Soirée is February 8.

“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 by February 8 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 10 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.

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	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	Richard Come	
Grief:			
Judith Steff family	Joyce Zwilling family	Treiber family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

Our Neighbors' Place



Our Neighbors' Place is a seasonal overflow shelter that ensures everyone has a warm, safe place to sleep during Erie's winter season.

A community effort, ONP used to operate on a rotating basis among several downtown Erie churches during the winter season. This season ONP will take place at the Community Resilience Center, a single site location provided by Erie County. Guests are provided food, the opportunity to shower, a place to sleep, chaplain services, hygiene necessities, foot care, and are introduced to available homeless services.

Where and When:

- Community Resilience Center (450 E 16th St. Erie, PA 16503)
- This program is seasonal and will open in November 2025 - April 2026.
- **Volunteers arrive at 6:30pm and leave at 11:00pm.**

Who We Serve:

- Any homeless man or woman without shelter.

How We Serve:

- Providing a warm overnight space to sleep.
- Supplying one meal to each guest.
- Connection to chaplain services.
- Giving guests an opportunity to shower.
- Bringing in community partners to provide foot care.
- Connection to other homeless resources in Erie County.

How You Can Help:

- **Luther Memorial Church will be volunteering at ONP the week of Wednesday, February 11 – Tuesday, February 17. Your help is needed for 1 night, 2 nights, or as many as you are able. Volunteers hand out towels for showers, offer coffee, hand out meals, provide t-shirts and socks for those that are in need of these items. Meals are pre-made and ready to serve.**

Six volunteers are needed for each evening so we ask that you really give some thought to helping. The giving of your time will be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, you may contact Norma in the church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or Sarah Prylinski at 882-1695. Thank you.

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 26	2:30pm 6:00pm	LMA Play Practice Hand-Up Erie Meeting
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27	10:00am 6:00pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group LMA Lego League
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28	6:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29	12:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:00pm 6:45pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group LMA Play Practice Handbells Rehearsal LMA Legos Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30	11:30am	LMA Dismissal & Teacher Meeting
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31		

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

“Souper” Bowl Tasting Event will be held at 11:30am in fellowship hall.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Stan Rose
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	

Readings and Commemoration This Week

January 25 – Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries – Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24;

Ephesians 5:6-14 -- *These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.*

January 26 – Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith – Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18 - *Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.*

January 28 – Thomas Aquinas, teacher, 1274 – Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79 -- *One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.*

January 29 – Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; I Peter 3:8-12

January 30 – Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; I Timothy 5:17-24

January 31 – Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 12:31-35

