

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



21 SEPTEMBER 2025
**THE FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW,
APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

LMA Principal

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

WELCOME!

This is the day that the Lord has made. Together, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today: Almost everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You are invited to stand as you are able where indicated. Hymns are included in this bulletin, however if you need larger print, hymns may be found in the back of the red hymnal using the number indicated (#). Please join in singing all the music! Today especially we raise our voices in praise!

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!** You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to check in and let your friends know where you are!

~ **We welcome** all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).

~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

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

+ + +

PRELUDE – "Bicentennial"

R. Schmoltze

*Please rise in body or spirit and face the procession at the doors. Let us follow the cross into worship.***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

ONE: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin**and cannot free ourselves.****We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,****by what we have done and by what we have left undone.****We have not loved you with our whole heart;****we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.****For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,****have mercy on us.****Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,****so that we may delight in your will****and walk in your ways,****to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

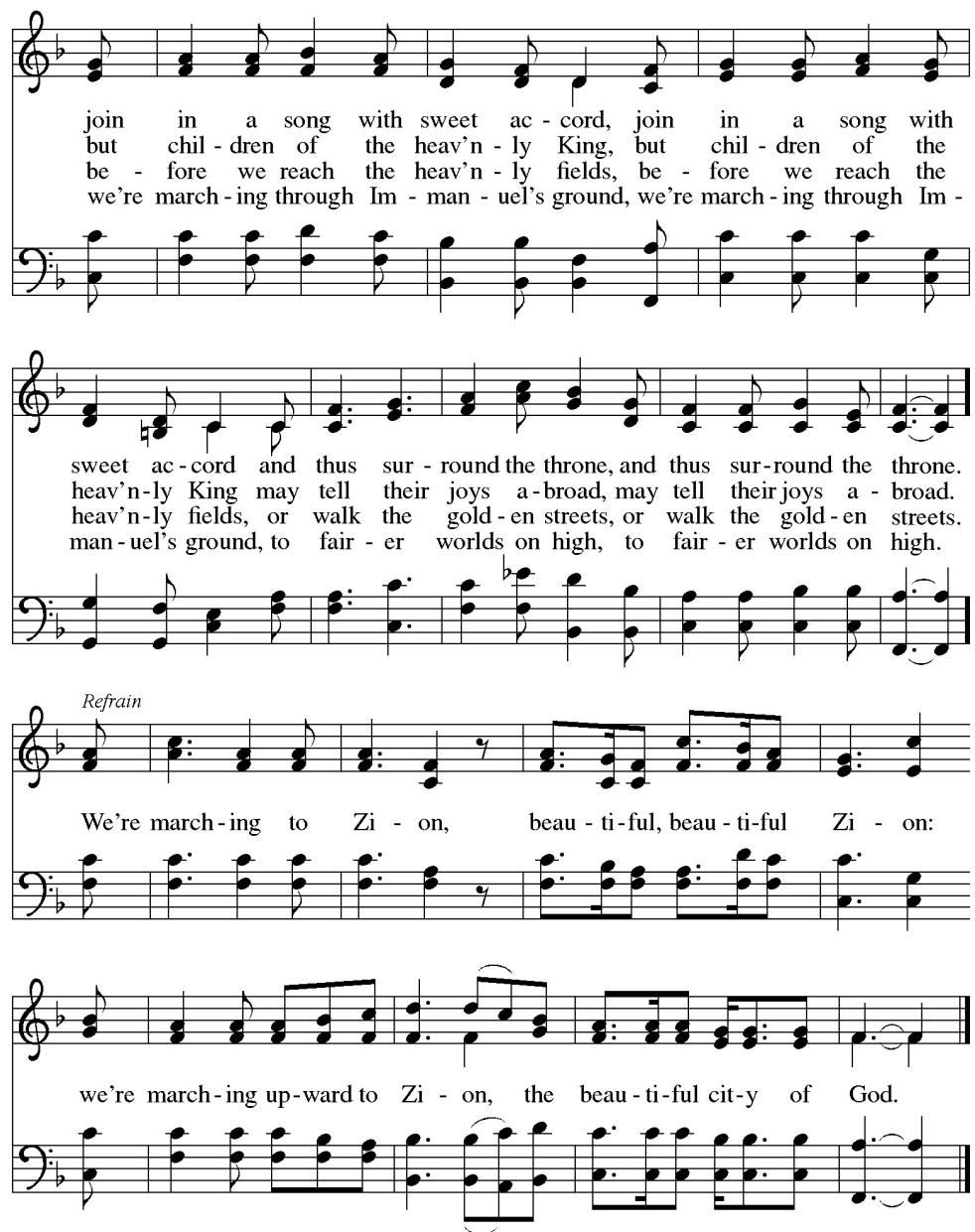
In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.**GATHERING HYMN****ELW 625**

Come, We That Love the Lord
We're Marching to Zion

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) on a grand staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of the four-part setting.

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain

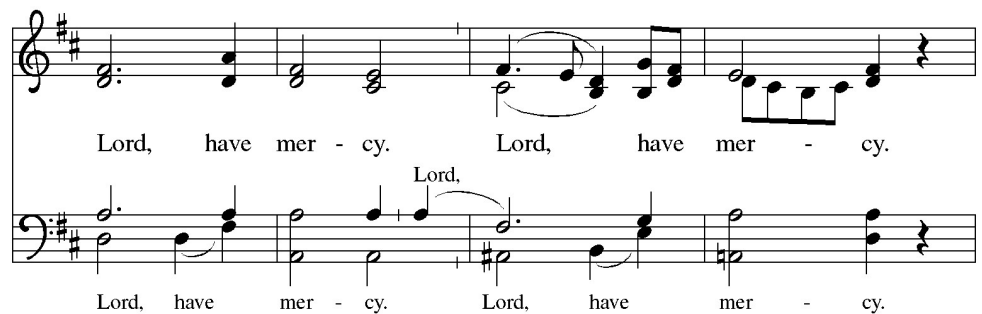
We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:
we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

OPENING SENTENCE

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's reign now and forever. Amen.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

⁸“You, mortal, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me, and a written scroll was in it. ¹⁰The Lord spread it before me; it had writing on the front and on the back, and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe. ^{3:1}The Lord said to me, “O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ²So I opened my mouth, and the Lord gave me the scroll to eat. ³The Lord said to me, “Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and in my mouth it was as

sweet as honey. ⁴The Lord said to me, “Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. ⁵For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language but to the house of Israel, ⁶not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. ⁷But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me, because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸See, I have made your face hard against their faces and your forehead hard against their foreheads. ⁹Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰The Lord said to me, “Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; ¹¹then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40 (TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH)

Eternal Lord, teach me your way, and I will follow for my part;
enable me to know your law, which I will keep with all my heart.

Engage my feet upon the path of your commandments, hear my plea;
expel all love of unjust gain, incline my heart to your decree.

Endow me, in your ways, with life, and turn my eyes from sin and shame;
establish now the promise, Lord, you make to those who fear your Name.

Expose me not to dread reproach, for all your judgments, Lord, are right;
eternal Lord, preserve my life, for your commands are my delight.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. With Christ ⁶God raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come might be shown the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not you own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

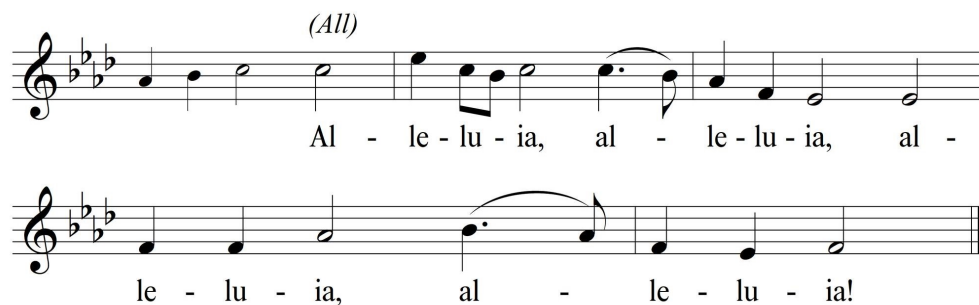
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel. The cantor introduces the Alleluia. The congregation repeats and again after the cantor offers the verse.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

M. E. Krentz
BOURBON



✪ *Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ;
strive side by side for the faith of the gospel.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection station, and Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” And Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as Jesus sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

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

For the Faithful Who Have Answered



1. For the faith - ful who have an - swered When they heard your
2. Man - y eyes have glimpsed the prom - ise. Man - y hearts have
3. For this cloud of faith - ful wit - ness, For the com - mon



call to serve, For the man - y ways you led them
yearned to see. Man - y ears have heard you call - ing
life we share, For the work of peace and jus - tice,



Test - ing will and stretch - ing nerve, For their work and
Us to great - er lib - er - ty. Some have fal - len
For the gos - pel that we bear, For the vi - sion



for their wit - ness As they strove a - gainst the odds,
in the strug - gle. Oth - ers still are fight - ing on.
that our home - land Is your love— deep, high and broad—



For their cour - age and o - be - dience
You are not a - shamed to own us.
For the dif - f'rent roads we trav - el



We give thanks and praise, O God.
We give thanks and praise, O God.
We give thanks and praise, O God.

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. Amen.

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.

We pray for the church. For Elizabeth and Kristen, our bishops; for Yehiel, our Presiding-Bishop-Elect; for Jean, our dead; for Jay, our pastor, and for all who serve your church. For evangelists and teachers, for mission developers and young adults in global mission. For those who are discerning their calling. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the earth. For grasslands and marshes, urban parks and greenbelts. For all wild and domestic animals. For places damaged by earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or hail. Protect fragile environments from harm by human greed or carelessness. Make us good stewards of your abundant gifts that we share with all those in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those who govern and for all in positions of authority. Prevent them from abusing their power for personal gain, and inspire them to work for the common good. Bring an end to hatred, violence, and injustice, particularly in places where war and strife are daily life: Palestine, Ukraine, Hati, Sudan, the United States. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those who are despised because of their vocations. For victims of theft, scams, or intimidation. For those who struggle for acceptance within their community. For those who grieve, and for the sick, particularly those whose names and needs we lift up now: _____. Console all who are in distress. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For this assembly. Deepen our practices of hospitality and outreach. Transform us through your gifts of mercy and forgiveness. Fill us with compassion and inspire us to lives of generosity and service. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember Matthew and all who have gone before us in the faith. Bring us, together with them, to the joy of the resurrection and to the fulfillment of your promise of unending life with you. 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. Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

OFFERTORY – "Allein Gott in Der Hoeb"

J. Pachelbel

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

OFFERING HYMN

TFF 292

Give Thanks

A musical score for the hymn 'Give Thanks' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am'.



Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.
Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving
what you have first given us—
ourselves, our time, and our possessions,
signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him
who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The second system contains 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' The third system contains 'Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your Only Begotten One, that all those who believe in Christ should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive with a living faith the same Jesus who comes to us in this holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*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.*

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is made ready!

One is Holy; One is Lord: Jesus Christ to the glory of God. Amen.

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

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know. Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

The image displays two staves of musical notation, each consisting of a treble and bass clef staff joined by a brace. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#). The first hymn's lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us." The second hymn's lyrics are: "Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us." The musical notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs, providing a guide for singing these hymns.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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ELW 519

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
- 2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;

O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain

To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version
Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune
Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er dwell-ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
 2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er liv - ing as the church's ver - y life;
 3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er work-ing through the church's min - is - try;

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through us in a cease - less strife;
 quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er rais - ing those of earth to thrones on high;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ:
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul

liv - ing, life - im - part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 you we praise with end - less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un - priced.
 in com-mu - nion nev - er end-ing, you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.

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

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.

And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!

Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;

but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891
 Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *if needed*

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.

We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

...now and forever.

A - men. A - men. A - - men.

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Woodlands"

J. W. Kerr

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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 – Chloe Meucci

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Linda Graffius

LECTOR – Karen Braendel

USHERS – Mary Daniels, Linda & Jeff Swanson

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Christy Adams



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our 59th wedding anniversary by Jan and Skip MacInnes.

Today's Events

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

Detective skills will be put to the test at our Family Scavenger Hunt this afternoon. The hunt begins at 1:00pm from the church and the clues will take you to our mystery destination. Always a great afternoon! Reservations were to be to Sarah Prylinski by September 17.

Worship

LIVESTREAMERS ARE NEEDED! Recently, a few of our services have not been livestreamed and therefore not available to our homebound members. This is due to scheduling conflicts and volunteer availability. We need a robust rotation of livestreamers which involves tending the camera in the choir loft during our 10:30am worship service and our main worship services on feast days (such as Christmas Eve or Ash Wednesday). All ages are welcome to take on this vital leadership role in our communal worship. If you are interested in what this would entail and/or would like to sign up, please speak with Cantor Bryan or Pastor Jay.

Bishop Installation

Bishop Kristen Papson, a daughter of Luther, will be installed as Bishop by The Rev. Yehiel Curry, V Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, on Sunday, October 19 at 3:30pm at Good Hope, Oil City. All are invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like a seat on the bus leaving from Luther's parking lot at 1:30pm, please let the church office know by Sunday, September 28. Space is limited and is first-come-first-served. Cost is \$5 per person.

As we prepare for Bishop Papson's Installation (you've gotten that memo, yeah?), it has been suggested that Luther collect for a Purse to celebrate the occasion. As a daughter of Luther Memorial Church and a graduate of Luther Memorial Academy, Bishop Papson's election to Bishop is not just historic for the NWP Synod but a momentous point of pride for our congregation. And we should celebrate! If you are able to contribute to a purse for her Installation, please place your donation in an envelope marked for Bishop Papson's Purse in the offering plate or drop it off to the church office during hours by Monday, October 13. Thank you!

Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

The Concert Series has a variety of events planned beginning this fall. These events can be viewed by visiting our website at www.lm-concerts.com. More information can also be found on our Luther Memorial website under "Ministries".

Faith Formation for All Ages

Sunday School for Pre-K through 5th Grade begins on October 12 and every 2nd Sunday! **LYO** will also meet during this time. Acolyte training will also be available on these Sundays.

Bibles will be presented to children in third grade on All Saints' Sunday, November 2, during the 10:30am service. Please contact Norma in the church office by Monday, October 20 if your son and/or daughter are in third grade so a Bible can be prepared for them. Thank you.

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. You do not need the book to participate, but if you would like a copy of the book, it is \$15 to the church office.

Prayer Shawls

Healing takes place in many ways and the gift of a prayer shawl provides comfort and a source of healing for many. If you know of someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl made by our "knitters of Luther Memorial" please contact Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476, Linda Graffius at 814-440-5458 or the church office and one will be prepared for you.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Oktoberfest, our annual delicious feast, will be held Sunday, October 5 at 11:30am in fellowship hall. The main course of bratwurst & sauerkraut, hotdogs and macaroni & cheese will be served, as well as beverages. All are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Raise your glasses and cheer – Oktoberfest! RSVP to the church office by Sunday, September 28.

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon; September 23. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS want to know "What's Your Game?" Join us for a fun time playing board games, cards, checkers or your favorite game on Wednesday, September 24. We will meet in the parlor at 11:00am. Lunch will be provided. Please see Jan MacInnes this morning if you would like to attend.

Saint Zita's Day—Church Clean-Up!

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

Outreach

CROP Walk day is Sunday, September 28 with registration at 1:00pm and the walk beginning at 2:00pm. The Walk will begin at Beach 1. Luther Memorial (both Church **and** Academy) will have a shared Team as part of LMA Sunday celebrations. Get your family and friends together and join us in this special 50th Anniversary Celebration. If you are unable to walk, consider making a donation to someone who is walking. A donation packet is available from the church office.

Julia House

Julia's Cash Bash will be held Saturday, October 4 from 5:00 – 9:00pm at St. Francis Usher Club, 9085 Main Street in McKean. Your \$30 ticket includes full dinner, dessert, coffee/soda and entry for cash prize drawings. The evening is complete with a silent auction, basket raffle, tips, cash bar and music. Proceeds will help build Julia House, Erie County's first free-standing hospice house and palliative care clinic. Tickets are available this morning from Linda Graffius in the parlor area or by contacting Linda at 814-440-5458 or Cathy Beck at 814-450-4833.

Bethany Outreach Center

The Bingo event this afternoon for the Bethany Outreach Center has been cancelled.

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
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Jeff Monroe
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Debbie Cesnick	Sherry Giles
Lakeyia, Damarion, Noah, Diamond	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Pat Lupo
David Gilbert	Joel	Debbie Betit	Haven Schaefer
Grief:			
Dave Parsh family	Woodard family	Koscinski family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

To add a name to the prayer list, please submit one of the cards from the pew into the offering plate, contact Linda or another member from the Prayer Group, or call the church office. When submitting a name, please let us know first name, general reason for inclusion (Healing/Wholeness, Surgery, Hospice, Death, or Other), and ensure that the person is comfortable with their name being included on the list. Names added to the short term prayer list—unless otherwise noted or resubmitted—will remain on the list for two months before removal.

Readings and Commemoration This Week

September 22 – Psalm 12; Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12

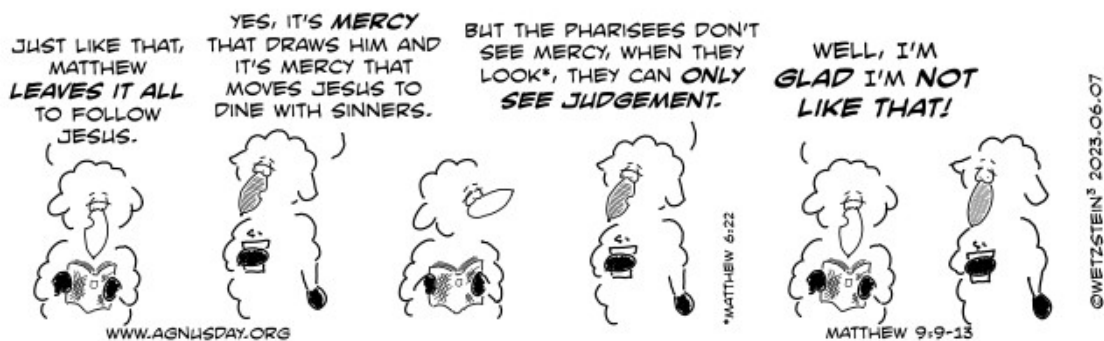
September 23 – Psalm 12; Proverbs 17:1-5; I Corinthians 9:19-23

September 24 – Psalm 12; Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45-21:4

September 25 – Psalm 146; Proverbs 22:2-16; II Corinthians 8:8-15

September 16 – Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10

September 17 – Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 8:43b-48



C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	6:00pm	PTL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	10:00am 4:30pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group School Board
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	11:00am	OWLS Game Day
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	12:00pm 1:00pm 5:30pm 6:45pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group Handbells Choir
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	8:30am 11:30am 12:00pm	LMA Sunday Practice LMA Dismissal Teacher Meeting
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	9:00am 10:00am	Church Cleaning Quilting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 THE 26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY SUNDAY

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

CROP Walk begins with registration at 1:00pm; walk at 2:00pm leaving from Beach One at Presque Isle.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Emma Chaffee
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	