

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



26 OCTOBER 2025
THE FEAST OF THE EVER-REFORMING CHURCH
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST
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.

PRELUDE – "Fantasie on "Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott"

P. Fey

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

GATHERING HYMN

We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God



All: 1 We __ praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the
Choir: 2 The __ band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your
All: 3 You, __ Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing
All: 4 You __ sit in splen-did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right



Lord, The __ Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by
 praise; The __ fel - low - ship of proph - ets their
 Son, Yet __ You, with bound-less love, __ sought to
 hand, Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by



all the earth a - dored. To __ You all an - gel
 death-less voic - es raise. The __ mar - tyrs of Your
 res - cue ev - 'ry - one: You __ laid a - side Your
 forc - es You com - mand. We __ know that You will



pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav-ens sing, The __
 king - dom, a __ great and no - ble throng, Sing __
 glo - ry, were __ born of vir-gin's womb, Were __
 come as our __ Judge that fi - nal day, So __



cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim their prais - es to You
 with the ho - ly Church through-out all the world this
 cru - ci - fied for us __ and were placed in - to a
 help Your ser - vants You __ have re - deemed by blood, we



bring: "O __ ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord
 song: *All:* "O __ all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your
 tomb; Then __ by Your res - ur - rec - tion You
 pray; May __ we with saints be num - bered where



God of Sab - a - oth; Your - maj - es - ty and
true and on - ly Son, And - Ho - ly Spir - it,
won for us re - prieve— You - o - pened heav - en's
prais - es nev - er end, In - glo - ry ev - er -

glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!"
Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!"
king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

Stephen P. Starke / Setting Mark Bender
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OPENING SENTENCE

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Gracious Creator, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where we are corrupt, purify us; where we are in error, direct us; where in anything we are amiss, reform us; where we are right, strengthen us; where we are in need, provide for us; where we are divided, reunite us; for the sake of 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.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Jacob and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt— a covenant that they broke, though I was married to them, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Often thought by some as a sort of anthem or “fight song” of the Reformation,
 Ein feste Burg is one of the countless hymns Luther wrote.
 It is actually his setting of Psalm 46, particularly the refrain of the Psalm
 “The Lord of host is with us, the God of Jacob is our strong tower.”
 It was one of Luther’s many attempts to teach through song.
 Here, we use it as Luther intended as a Psalm for worship.*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For no human will be justified before God by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. This was to demonstrate God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to demonstrate at the present time God's own righteousness, so that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

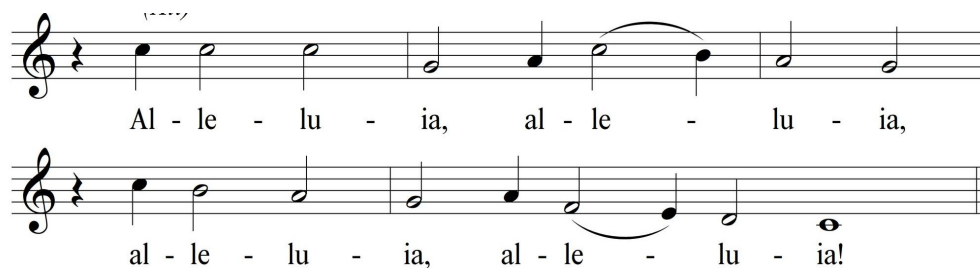
The Word of the Lord.

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
 EIN FESTE BURG



♪ *If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Judeans who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not

have a permanent place in the household; the heir has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Heir makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

ELW 769

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Please be seated. Those making affirmation may gather with the ministers. They may be joined by others from the congregation.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

I present _____ who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

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

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Please stand. The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the congregation.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

AFFIRMATION

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

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

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

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

The minister addresses the congregation.

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

CONFIRMATION

Let us pray.

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

Each confirmand kneels. As the presiding minister lays both hands on the hands of each confirmand, you may extend a hand in blessing. The presiding minister prays:

God our creator, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.

Amen.

ACCLAMATION

Those making public affirmation stand and face the congregation. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

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

The congregation offers acclamation with applause.

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

You may kneel, sit, or stand as is your custom.

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your Word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. Continue to pour your Spirit into Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay our bishop, and all who continue to serve your ever-reforming church. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. Open our hearts and hands to share abundantly of all your good gifts, particularly in those places where food and water are denied as means of war and power. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Grant everlasting peace to those places where strife and warfare are a daily reality: Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, the United States. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill especially those whose names and needs we lift up now: _____. Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints Phillip, Johann, Paul, Simon, Jude, Martin, Katie, Philipp, Roberta, William, Richard, John, Robert, Dave, John, Wayne and all our beloved dead. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. Keep us with Evelyn, Gabe, and Patrick in the promises of baptism until we join around the Tree of Life. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our 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 – "Built on a Rock"

D. Wood

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

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
 rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

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...unending hymn:

SANCTUS

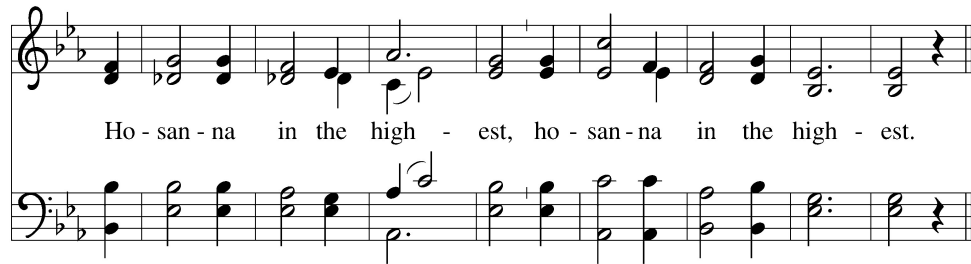
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

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.



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

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth, for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields, for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in this place, for creatures seen and unseen, for animals both wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe, and for the places we humans call home, for cities and churches and schools, for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.

We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses and Miriam and Aaron, for Jeremiah and the psalmists, and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg, and Fedde, for Katie Luther and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai, Nommensen and Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer and Hammar skjöld, for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,

*who on the night before he died,
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.*

And so we remember your Word, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his presence in this meal around the world, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

We pray, O God, for your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your law, your grace, your freedom. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of your churches; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, with the joy of life in your household.

We praise you, all-holy God, mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield, today, tomorrow, 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

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, "Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us," is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a melody in the treble staff and a supporting bass line in the bass staff. The second hymn, "Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us," follows a similar pattern with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

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 517

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

That Priceless Grace

1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
 2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
 3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
 4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious

grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
 blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
 death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
 word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.

That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
 Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

For by Grace You Have Been Saved

1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -

own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
 own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
 self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -

done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is

God's great gift. A - men.
 God's great gift." A - men.
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
 Music: ARMOLAU, Kari Tikka
 Text and music © Fennica Gehman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS*Please stand as you are able.***BLESSING**

...now and forever.

**SENDING HYMN****ELW 665****Rise, Shine, You People!**

- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

ACOLYTES – Ellie & Maddie Wertz

CROSS BEARER – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Stan Rose

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Confirmation Students

FIRST READING – Gabe Stroup

SECOND READING – Evelyn Graffius

USHERS – Diane & Bob Banks, Cathy Beck, 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 our parents, Roberta and William Braendel, and our brothers, Richard, John and Robert by the Braendel family.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Wayne Heidt, by Ann and Gary Flick.

Columbarium flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Reformation and in loving memory of Pastor J. David Mumford and John Mumford, III, by Mary Mumford.

Join us in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for a reception honoring our confirmands. Thank you to our Tuesday W/ELCA Circle for providing this celebration.

Today's Events

Trunk-or-Treat this afternoon with all your friends. We're looking forward to seeing all the costumes and trunk creativity. Set-up in the church parking lot will begin at 1:00 noon. Treating will be held from 1:30-2:30pm. Music by DJ Bill Mason, prizes, a costume parade, and of course, treats will make this very exciting afternoon. Please see Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski this morning with any questions.

The Western New York Chamber Orchestra will offer a concert in the Luther Memorial main church this afternoon. Please join us for a brief informational talk at 2:30pm with the concert beginning at 3:00pm. The WNYCO concerts have been praised for showcasing the talent of soloists and the orchestra's ability to create a moving atmosphere while performing a wide range of musical styles.

Worship Matters!

The Feast of the Ever-Reforming Church, sometimes called Reformation Day, is celebrated on October 31. In typical Lutheran fashion, we often celebrate it on the nearest Sunday *before* the day itself. We cannot bump it later because November 1 and subsequent nearest Sunday is designated to celebrate All Saints. The thing about this feast is that it is **not** a required day on our church calendar. Lutherans are the only ones, really, to celebrate this particular day and even for us it is not a requirement. We could go years—our whole lives even—without taking this moment aside to celebrate. And that's something to think about.

This is one of the only days that Lutherans celebrate apart from anyone else. All of our other feasts are shared with others in the Church. But this day is set aside. Why? Well, the *particular* day of October 31 is chosen because it is believed that this is the day Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. Now, recent scholarship has found this almost definitely did not happen and certainly did not happen with a big hammer and nails as often depicted. Luther simply invited the learned and the public to a debate on the practice of selling indulgences.

But what we celebrate on this day is not just that one moment, but the power of the Spirit to continually guide the Church. Actually, everything else that would come to define Lutheran worldview and theology comes over the following decades from Luther and others. Indeed, in the *Book of Concord* in which is found the "Unadulterated Confessions of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church," the collection of every text that defines the "Lutheran Confessions," the 95 theses are not even present!

So it's not just one day, but a whole way of life in the Spirit that we celebrate. Luther would be appalled if we only looked back to a particular moment, as if the Church were a museum piece to be admired and nostalgically yearned over. As such, we also take this moment to celebrate the reforming power of the Spirit in the Church. It is a reminder to us that the gift of the Spirit poured out upon the Church at Pentecost is a transformative power that continues to imbue the Church with gifts and vision. Today is not about celebrating **Being Lutheran**. This is the day to rejoice and give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit to the whole Church and to pray that she continue to work in and among the Church in positive, transformational, and reformatory ways...even among Lutherans. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

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.

Concert Events

The Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series and the Mercyhurst Concert Choir will celebrate All Souls Day with a Requiem Mass on Sunday, November 2 at 4:00pm. We will gather not just to hear a beautiful setting of the Requiem Mass composed by Faure, but also to share in a full Mass—with communion and all. We are considering this "A Requiem in Context." We also want to make sure that we remember *your* faithful departed at our celebration. Between now and Thursday, October 30, you may submit names of anyone you would like remembered (from this year or before) to Pastor Jay or the church office for inclusion.

Faith Formation for All Ages

For students 7th grade through 9th grade, there will be four workshops offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, March 8, May 10**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. **The first gathering for youth in 7th – 9th grade will be held Sunday, November 9 at 11:45am with lunch provided.**

"Conversations People" – the next meeting with Pastor Gail Zackrison will be on Sunday, November 9 after the second service. This is a group that is learning (slowly) and talking (gently) and listening (intently) on the subject of systemic racism. ALL are welcome. Currently we're in the library so we can listen to the podcast "Seeing White". Come join us!

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 gather on October 30.** We will not meet in November; gatherings in December will begin on the 4th. 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.

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 will be 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. If you've already ordered a book, they are in the office for pickup (and payment as needed). **YOU** are invited to join us! November's gathering is Tuesday, November 4.

Hunger Cravings

Nothing Bundt Cakes, a sweet way to support our LYO, will be available to order through Sunday, November 2. Orders will be available to pick up on Sunday, November 16. Individual bundtlets are only \$7 each and a perfect dessert for the holiday season. Varieties are available sure to satisfy anyone's craving. Order forms are available at the welcome tables and in the church office. Thank you for your support!

Hamloaf is back, but there is even more to choose from. Sausage varieties return and a new flavor, Philly CheeseSteak Bratwurst, makes its debut. Great for the holidays or anytime, and the price is right. Keeping it local, Gahr's Hamloaf in Franklin, PA is delicious. Orders are due Friday, November 21 with pick-up on Sunday, December 14. Order forms are available at the welcome tables, the church and school offices. Proceeds will benefit our youth. Thank you.

Opportunities for Fellowship

It's time to Shop at our Craft Show on Saturday, November 8 from 10:00am-3:00pm. More crafters, more variety and more reasons you need to stop down and shop for the holidays. Admission is \$2. Free admission for educators with ID badge. Proceeds benefit our youth group.

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; October 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS will enjoy a celestial experience of the Winter Sky and Christmas Sky at the Penn State Planetarium on Wednesday, November 19. Join us for a presentation by James Gavio at 11:00am. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476 or the church office by November 13. Parking permits and a map for the campus are available from Jan MacInnes or the church office.

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			

Friends and Family:

Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Jeff Monroe
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Shirley	Judy
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Valerie
Linda F.	Joel	Debbie Betit	Haven Schaefer
Katja & family			

Grief:

Pat Lupo 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

October 26 – Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters -- *These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, Holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.*

October 27 – Psalm 84:8-12; I Samuel 2:1-10; I Peter 4:12-19

October 28 – Simon and Jude, Apostles – Jeremiah 26:1-16; Psalm 11; I John 4:1-6; John 14:21-27 -- *We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.*

October 29 – Psalm 84:8-12; Daniel 5:13-31; Matthew 21:28-32

October 30 – Psalm 32:1-7; Proverbs 15:8-11, 24-33; II Corinthians 1:1-11

October 31 – The Feast of the Ever-Reforming Church – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 -- *By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.*

November 1 – The Feast of All the Saints – Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31 -- *The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.*



CALENDAR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

10:00am Pericope
10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

11:45am Pizza with the Principal & Pastor
Newsletter Mailing

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

12:00pm Brown Bag Bible
1:00pm Grief Group
5:30pm Handbells
6:45pm Choir

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

11:00am LMA Halloween Parade
11:30am Dismissal

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

10:00am W/ELCA Gathering

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025
THE FEAST OF ALL THE SAINTS

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

Faure's Requiem *in Context!* worship and concert at 4:00pm.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Martha Klomp
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	

We Congratulate our youth on their confirmation this morning. They have gathered on Sundays since September 21 to prepare for their confirmation. They have studied The Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther, Communion and Baptism.

Meet Our Confirmation Students

Patrick Cimino

Patrick's favorite Bible verse: Isaiah 41:10

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand".

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: The fundraisers

SOMEONE LOVED ME ENOUGH TO HAVE ME BAPTIZED. I'M GLAD THEY DID. NOW I KNOW WHY: It reminds me that God will always love me and he will always have a plan for me, no matter how hard times get. The baptism shows that I'm never alone because God will always be there for me to guide me in my faith. My baptism reminds me that God always forgives me of my sins. My baptism drowned out the old me, and started something I will forever be grateful for.

Evelynn Graffius

Evelynn's favorite Bible verse: 1 Timothy 4:12

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: My favorite memory at church has to be the Lucia Festival. Growing up able to celebrate a holiday of my heritage has made me so grateful. Most people don't get to celebrate holidays connected to their heritage. Having this opportunity to have celebrated this holiday for my entire life truly means so much to me, from being a little Jultomte to being Kris Kringle this year. Every year this has given me, and will continue to give me, such special memories that I will cherish in my heart forever.

SOMEONE LOVED ME ENOUGH TO HAVE ME BAPTIZED. I'M GLAD THEY DID. NOW I KNOW WHY:

My baptism was the beginning of my journey with Christ, and Confirmation is my choice to continue walking with Him, not just because someone else started it for me, but because I believe in it for myself. This reminds me that even though I'm young, my faith is real and powerful, and there I can always lead others. I want to live in a way that reflects Christ's love and truth, and Confirmation is my commitment to that path.

Gabriel Stroup

Gabe's favorite Bible verse: Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who gives me strength"

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: Altar serving with my mom, especially on the holidays and feast days

SOMEONE LOVED ME ENOUGH TO HAVE ME BAPTIZED. I'M GLAD THEY DID. NOW I KNOW WHY:

My parents loved me enough to have me baptized so I could grow with my faith. I have a very strong faith and love for the Lord. I am very thankful that I was baptized, God has helped guide me through life and all of its struggles. I now have a strong sense of morals and a strong set of values.