

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



5 FEBRUARY 2023  
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:30 am

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

*Pastor Emeritus*

WALT GABER

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

*Pastors in Residence*

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

*Director of Care & Health Ministries*

JAN MACINNES

BETH KELLER

*Youth and Family Ministry*

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

BECKY CAREY

*Interim Academy Administrator*



**5 FEBRUARY 2023**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
**Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Four • 10:30**

### LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

**PRELUDE** – "God, Whose Almighty Word"

Richard Proulx, Thomas Matthews,  
Kevin Sadowski, Jack Jones

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HANDBELL VOLUNTARY** – "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

arr. Jeffrey Honore

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



P Holy One, source of our renewal,  
 C we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,  
 and cannot free ourselves.  
 We have not practiced your righteousness.  
 Our hearts have turned away from you.  
 For the sake of the world you so love,  
 forgive us,  
 that we may be reconciled to one another  
 for the glory of your holy name.  
 Amen.

P Thus says our God:  
 “The former things have come to pass  
 and new things I now declare.”  
 God’s mercy makes us new.  
 We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

*Text and music for this hymn were written by a contemporary liturgical composer,  
 workshop presenter, and performing musician who graduated from Luther College in 1984.  
 Much of his work has proved enormously popular in Roman Catholic churches.  
 He has published over 250 pieces and twenty-four recordings.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and





blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



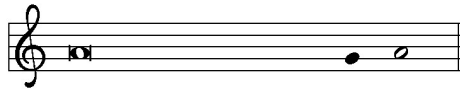
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## 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.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L** Let us pray.
- C** Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

<sup>1</sup>Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. <sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.” [<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.]

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]** (*St. Martin's Psalter*)

**Refrain:** (*Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.*)



- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in his commandments!
- <sup>2</sup>Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blest.
- <sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.
- <sup>4</sup>Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. **R**
- <sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup>For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- <sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
- <sup>8</sup>Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies. **R**
- <sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor,  
and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- [<sup>10</sup>]The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish. **R**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom,*

*Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified.*

*True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, my dear family, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup>and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God"—<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [ <sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. <sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness ►

to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. <sup>16</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct the Lord?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Refrain:** *(Sung once by the choir, repeated by the congregation and repeated after the verse.)*



*Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
(John 8:12)*

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

### GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus said: <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>17</sup>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the dominion of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the dominion of heaven. <sup>20</sup>"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the dominion of heaven."

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

### SERMON

Michael Snider

*Please stand as you are able.*

*This hymn, based on Genesis 1:3, was written about 1813 by an English prelate.  
The composer of the melody was a brilliant Italian violinist and a prolific composer of operas and an oratorio. This melody is extremely well-regarded and is found in collections of many denominations.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 673**

**God, Whose Almighty Word**



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C** **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.**



## THE PRAYERS

**A** Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We give you thanks for the leading of the Holy Spirit in the call process and for the hard work of our Call Committee and our Church Council. Guide Pastor Mitchell as he prepares to leave his congregation in Philadelphia and begin his ministry with us. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness, especially Frank Howell and Pat Olinger. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**L** We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**C** Amen.

**L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*Please be seated.*

**MEAL** – *“God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”*

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

*“Jesus said, truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”*

*Luke 21: 3-4*

*Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,  
Use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;  
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son;  
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.*

*By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,  
By the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,  
By the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won:  
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.*

*Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel;  
With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal;  
Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun:  
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.*

*By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;  
By the cross of Jesus, bringing Peace to all and healing light;  
By the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one;  
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*This hymn combines a text by one of the most eminent Lutheran hymn writers with music by one of the most eminent Lutheran composers. The text was written by the author as an entrance hymn or introit, as "a list of awesome and exciting things that one should expect in worship."  
The tune was written for the text in 1969.*

OFFERTORY

ELW 460

Now the Silence

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed

Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come

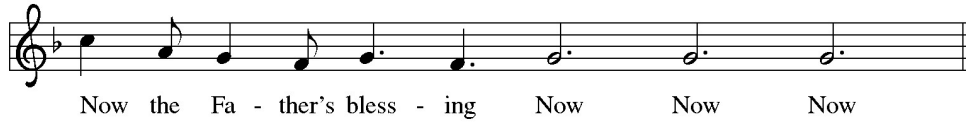
Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion

Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing

Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny





Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Liberating God,  
you break the bonds of injustice  
and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving  
for all your works of merciful power,  
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.  
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
- C** Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION PRAYER

- D** Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.  
When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion,  
we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and  
of the love shown us in the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
With thanksgiving we remembered that  
"in the night in which he was betrayed,  
he 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.'"  
We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit.  
Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing,  
that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.
- C** Amen. ▶

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **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. *Matthew 6:9*

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

### AGNUS DEI



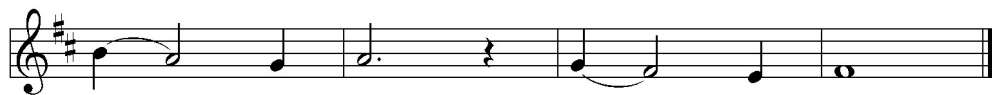
☑ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come and taste the joy of God!

☑ Amen.

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

*The congregation is seated.*

### SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

*O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.* Lutheran Book of Worship

### COMMUNION

*Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.*

*Please come forward by the center aisle.*

*Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.*

*Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font.*

*Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray.*

*Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.*

*If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.*

*The author wrote this text in response to a Hymn Society of America search for new hymns on social welfare. They published the text in 1961. With mention of timeless social needs easily seen in our lives, the hymn text encourages us to move from Sunday worship to weekly service. The 19<sup>th</sup> century tune, published in *The Sacred Harp*, is the work of a singing-school teacher, composer, and tune book compiler in the American South.*

## HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 712

### Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Please stand as you are able.

## BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
☑ Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Holy One,  
we thank you for the healing  
that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness,  
and journey humbly with you.  
☑ Amen.

*SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”*

## BLESSING

- ☐ The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod  
☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.  
☑ Amen.

*Born in an English manse, this author was the daughter of a Primitive Methodist clergyman and came to America when she was 9. Graduating from Brown University in 1904, she retired in 1949 after nearly a half century of teaching.*

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 507

### O God of Light

1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,  
shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,  
and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,  
and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.  
Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933  
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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

**A** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**G** Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "God, Whose Almighty Word"

Benjamin Culli

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*PREACHING* – Michael Snider

*GREETERS* – Linda & Dave Ditz

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Stan Rose

*LAY DISTRIBUTOR* – Ann Flick

*LECTOR* – Loretta Deeds

*USHERS* – Dave Griswold, Martha & Tom Klomp, Marilyn Rositer

*ALTAR GUILD* – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Frank R. Howell and Pat Olinger, by Mark and Joyce Howell.

### Today's Events

**"Souper" Bowl Tasting** will be held this morning in fellowship hall following the 10:30 service. Many have made their favorite soups to share so join us for a delicious sampling of goodness. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

**The Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national project sponsored by churches to help alleviate hunger in the community. Soup kettles are at the entrances of the church this morning if you would like to make a donation. All donations received are kept in our local community.

**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 over the next few weeks. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**LMA Open House** will be held this afternoon from 1:00 – 3:30. Please let family and friends know about our wonderful school where students are offered a superior academic education and are surrounded by a Christian atmosphere. More information about LMA can be found at our website; [www.luthermemorialacademy.org](http://www.luthermemorialacademy.org).

**Offering envelopes** for 2023 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

### Worship

**At our service of worship** this morning, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council, received instruction, and were appointed by Bishop Michael Lozano. They serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Luther Memorial Church.

**The Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

**ReCharge contemporary service** will be held Sunday, February 19. We look forward to seeing you for a delicious meal, games and fellowship at 4:00pm. Our worship service will be held from 5:00-6:00pm.

### **Christian Education**

**First Holy Communion** classes will be held on Sundays, February 26 – April 2 from 9:30-10:15am in the fellowship hall area. Our students will receive special instruction by Ann Flick and Beth Keller throughout Lent. All children in grades 3 and up are invited to take part in these classes. If your son or daughter has not had the opportunity to attend First Communion class, we invite them to attend. Children will receive First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 7:00pm service. Please contact Norma in the church office if your child(ren) will attend. Thank you.

**Children's Church** classes for PreK – grade 6 meet Sunday, February 12 from 9:30 – 10:15am. Classes are held the second Sunday of each month Our youth in grades 7 - 12 will continue meeting on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30am.

**Teachers** and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

### **Lent**

**The season of Lent** will soon be upon us giving us an opportunity to revive our Wednesday luncheons. Due to Covid we have not had them for the past three (3) years. Hopefully, there will be much enthusiasm for them once again. A planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7 at 11:00am in the church parlor for all who are interested in helping. We need cooks and help with setup and clean up. Please contact Betty Pletz at 814-898-1053 with any questions.

### **Lenten Opportunities**

**Ash Wednesday** services will be held on February 22 with communion and imposition of ashes. Pastor Moran will preach at the 12:00 noon service. Pastor Lundwall will preach and Michael Snider will assist at the 7:00pm service.

**Wednesday Lenten** services will be held at 12:05pm March 1 – March 29. Scripture readings will be full of back-and-forth conversations with God. These conversations are filled with questions. People use questions to interrogate or to express their confusion or doubt. Questions express the longings of the heart and the puzzles of the mind. A question shows the distance between me and you. A question can also bring us closer. Let these questions—those others ask of God, and those you have carried yourself—draw you closer into conversation with God and with others this Lenten season.

March 1	Questions that Divide, Questions that Bind
March 8	Simple Questions
March 15	Questions for the Curious
March 22	Questions that Change, Questions that Change You
March 29	Questions that Kick

**Lenten luncheons** will be offered in fellowship hall at 12:35pm, immediately following worship, each Wednesday in Lent. All are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal; cost for each lunch is \$8.

**Walk to Emmaus** will bring our families together each Wednesday evening throughout Lent. We will gather at 5:30pm in fellowship hall for our meal. The main dish will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish to share. Our Bible lesson will be held in our main church from 6:15 – 7:00pm.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Spring Bingo** will be held Sunday, March 26 in our fellowship hall. Doors will open at 12:00 noon and the fun begins at 12:30pm. The cost of \$25 includes 8 games of play and with cash and prizes, tip boards and raffles. Small snacks will be available for purchase. This event will benefit our youth programming.



**Magic Fingers Grace Group** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. Join friends for a wonderful morning of knitting, crocheting and laughter on February 28. We will not meet on February 14 due to the OWLS outing at the Convention Center. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**Quilt meeting** will be held Saturday, March 11 from 10:00am – 2:00pm. The February meeting is cancelled.

**Youth and Family**

**It's time for some fun** at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center (formerly JMC Ice Arena), 527 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street on Sunday, February 12 from 12:00 – 2:00pm. It will be two great hours of ice skating and laughter with friends and family. Please see Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski or contact the church office with any questions.

**Luther Memorial Academy**

**LMA's Lego League** team has been invited to a FIRST Lego League tournament at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts June 9-11, 2023. This is a huge opportunity for the LMA team and they are proud to represent LMA & Erie County. To make this happen for our team, it is necessary to raise \$845 per student, which means a total of \$5,915 for the team. If you are aware of an area business that would like to sponsor our Lego League, please share the information with the school office. Every little bit helps & all donations and sponsorships can be mailed or dropped off in the school office. Be sure to make checks payable to LMA & earmark them for Lego League. Thank you.

**Items to Note**

**Parking** in the lot across from our 11<sup>th</sup> Street entrance is not permitted. Please do not park in this area as your car will be towed. Thank you.

**In case of an emergency** please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.



— PRAYER LIST —

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Jan & Skip MacInnes	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	John Downey
Dave Parsh	Mark Howell	Mike Daniels	Paul Meucci
Torsten Carlson	Dave Birkner		
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Elise VanDamia	Elayne Morphy	Linda F.	Linda F.
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Sue O'Mahony
Edie Jackman	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Brittani H.	Tom McGrail	Meghan Kessler
Austin Coverdale	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Brian Nicewonger	Curtis Krick	Tom Braendel	Susan Brooks
Branden Jones	Marian Millimaci	Debbie	
<b>Grief:</b>			
Mark Lechner family			
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

**CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**      11:00am      Lenten Luncheon Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**      5:30pm      Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30pm      Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10**      6:30pm      Club 50

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023**  
**THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Pastor Karen Lundwall** will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

**Children's Church** for PreK – Grade 6 will be held at 9:30am.

**Ice Skating** event for family and youth at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center from 12:00 – 2:00pm.

<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Roberta Lobaugh
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Dave Griswold
Greeters	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	