

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



1 DECEMBER 2024
The First Sunday in Advent
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

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

Academy Administrator

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

TOGETHER WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

+ Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.

+ If you have a need to **children's** bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.

- Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.

+ An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for “Handicap Bathroom.” Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.

+ You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.

+ We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

1 DECEMBER 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • Missa Emmanuel • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”

I. E. Hovland

II. G. Near

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Greetings to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes: the Shaper of Life, + the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

P Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin.

P Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit as is comfortable as we keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God,

C we want a faith that feels
like more than words,
but we lack your power
to embody goodness.
We hear your call to serve others
yet feel too worn out to make the food.
We hunger to taste justice
but fear the burning spice of the meal.
We want our place at your table
but resist sitting beside a stranger.
We have lost our appetites
for mere thoughts and prayers,
but we fail to match
our intentions to our actions.
Forgive us and restore us
with the healing wholeness of your presence.

P My friends, God knows you are imperfect. But God did not invite you here today for what you have done or how you have behaved. God loves you. God always cares much more for you than for your shortcomings. In the name of + Jesus, the One for Whom We Wait, God forgives you all your sins.

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able as we gather with song.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 435

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano (1), Alto (2), and Tenor/Bass (3). It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the alto and tenor parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound as to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

GREETING

- P** The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds,
and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- G** And also with you.

KYRIE

The musical notation for the Kyrie consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is for the Cantor and the second for the All. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. The third staff is for the Cantor and the fourth for the All. The lyrics are: Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. The fifth staff is for the Cantor and the sixth for the All. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, who shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

L Hear the One for whom we wait.

C Come, Word of God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10 (*Erhalt Uns, Herr*)

1. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, let not my foes have victory;
let not your servant be ashamed; confound those set on treachery.
2. Show me your ways, O Lord, my God, and teach my feet your path, I pray;
for my salvation comes from you, I trust in you throughout the day.
3. Remember your compassion, Lord, our steadfast love of ancient days,
and in that love remember me, remember not my youthful ways.
4. Gracious and upright is the Lord who teaches sinners in the way
and guides the humble toward the right and to the lowly shows the way.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?
¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may that very God, our Father, and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may the Lord so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

📖 Hear the One for whom we wait.

📖 Come, Word of God.

Please stand as you are able.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (*lighted by Diane and Bob Banks*)

📖 Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week. Together, we pray:

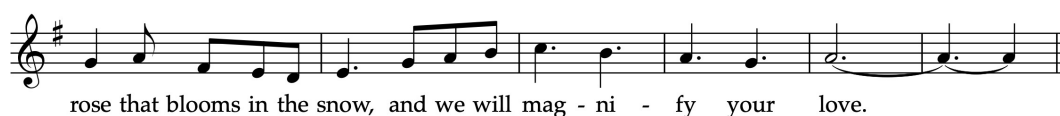
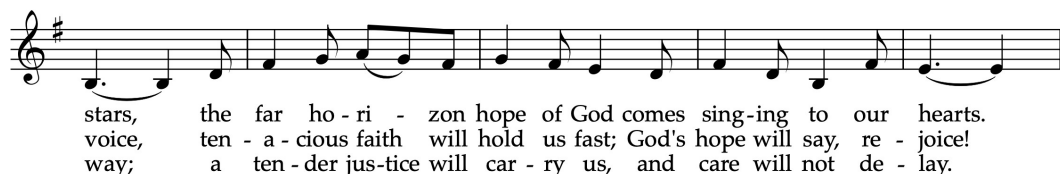
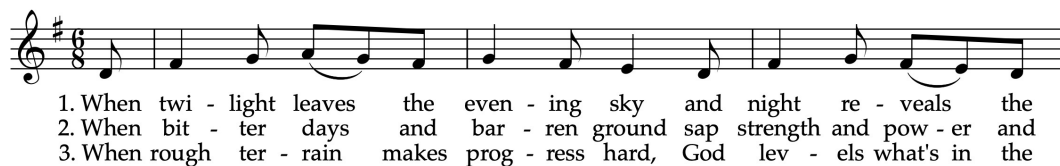
📖 God, we reach for unreasonable hope;

📖 and you prepare an incomparable future.

📖 Now that the warmth of God's presence fills this place, we pray that the Spirit will illuminate our lives through the words we hear, the songs we sing, and the pathways of prayer engraved on our hearts. We pray:

📖 Spirit, you know how shallow hope feels when our faith hides from what is real. Use your holy story to show us the human moments when you worked wonders for your people, so we can find hope in our lives, too.

📖 Amen.



GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son-of-Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the dominion of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son-of-Man.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

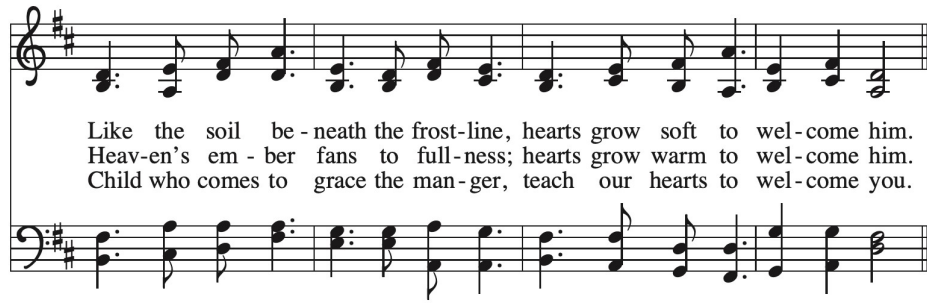
HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 901

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,
Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.
seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Text: Mary Loujse Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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 Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

NICENE CREED

A Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

C We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or sit for prayer.

THE PRAYERS

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died, especially Jane Heidt and Wayne Heidt. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

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

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

ANTHEM – “Advent”

L. Smith

Please stand as you are able.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.
 Prepare room in your home
 Prepare a place in your vision
 Prepare a seat at your table
 Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.

C You set the table with plenty of love.
 for our neighbors and us.
 for our neighbors and us.
 for our neighbors and us.
 You set the table
 with plenty of love. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOG

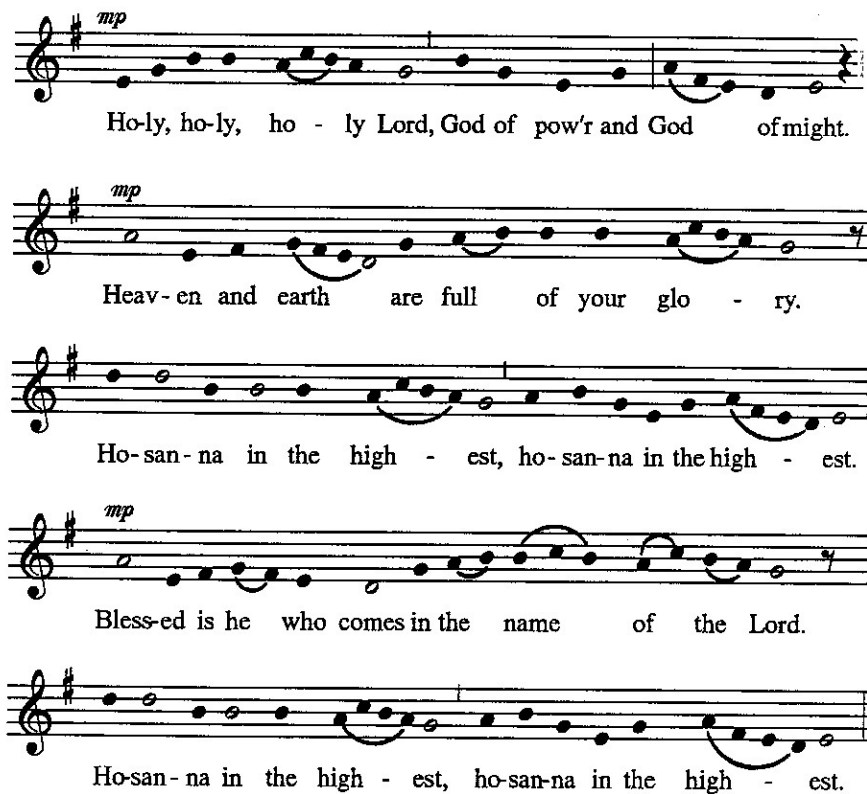
P The Lord be with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



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

mp
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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

mp
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P We praise you, living and loving God, that you have sent your Son to this world. Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation, our Lawgiver, burning with justice, the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots, the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

P And let the people cry,

C O come and save us.

*We praise you, serving and saving God, that you send your Son also to this table,
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.*

P We beg you, mighty and merciful God: send us the Spirit of your Son. Dwell in this food and in all who share it, that the earth may rejoice in your presence. In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world, reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples, and live among us, Emmanuel, our deepest desire now and forever.

P And let the people cry,

C O come and save us.

- ☐ Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, And let the people pray:
- ☑ Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Blest be God, who is our Bread;
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your sovereignty 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.
- ☑ Amen. We come.
- ☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

AGNUS DEI

mp

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:
4. De-sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2.3. All:

take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us, have

4.

mer-cy on us. world, grant us



THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

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.
Baked bread is being used. For those who so desire, gluten-free wafers are available;
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

ELW 241

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

ELW 260

The King Shall Come

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phat breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.
when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

You may remain seated until after the announcements.

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...and bring you to everlasting life.

C Amen.

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

- P** Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to you, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our siblings who are not here. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- P** 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.
- C** We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.
- C** Your love is often unrecognizable,
unappreciated,
gentle and unnoticed.
- A** But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.
- C** We have tasted your unspoken goodness.
And now we will magnify your love. Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

- P** ... now and forever.
- C** Amen.

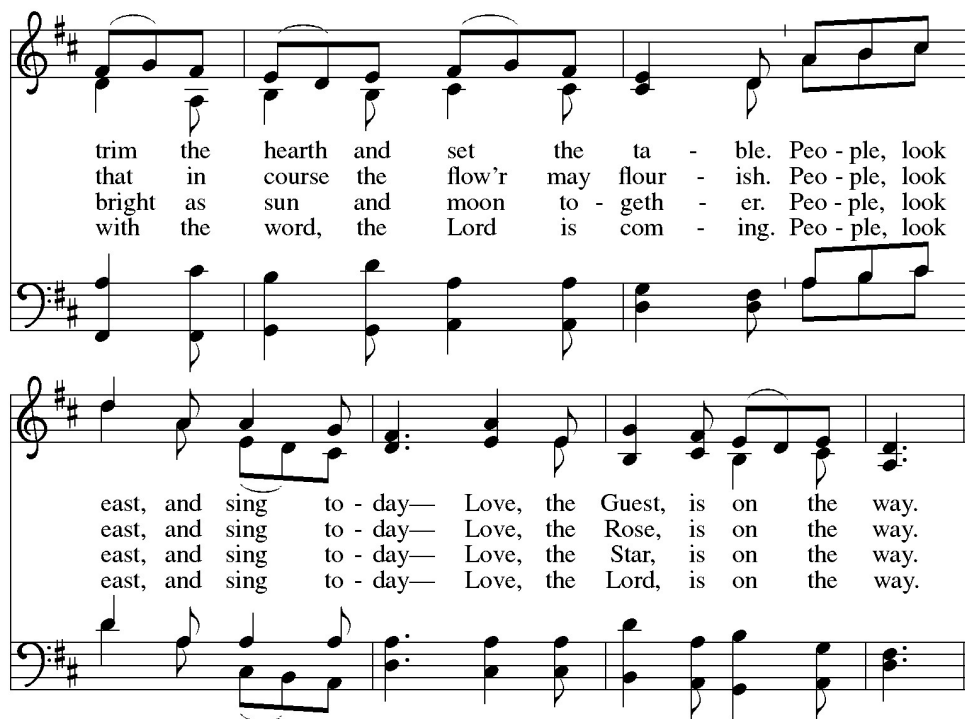
SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

ELW 248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as the sun and the moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
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DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “People Look East”

W. Wold

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Ann Flick

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jeanne Gaber

LECTOR – Bill Lasher

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Eric Hedlund, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

VIDEO STREAMING – Christy Adams



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my sister, Jane Heidt, and my dad, Wayne Heidt, by Ann and Gary Flick.

Altar flowers are available on Sunday, December 15; the Third Sunday in Advent. Please contact the church office if you would like to place flowers on the altar. Thank you.

Today's Events

Hanging of the Greens will be held following services this morning. Help to trim trees and prepare our church for a joyful Christmas. There is something for everyone in the family to help decorate.

Christmas cookie coffee hour will be held following each service this morning. Join us for some delicious holiday cookies, fellowship and decorating. It will be a festive morning for us all.

St. Lucia rehearsals will be held this morning at 11:30. **St Lucia Festival** will be held Sunday, December 8 at 3:00pm. We are excited to offer this beautiful program which begins our holiday season and look forward to seeing many join us. Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations. Doors will open at 2:30pm for the St. Lucia Festival presentation.

Offering envelopes for 2025 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.

Christmas cheer monetary donations would be appreciated in the coming weeks as we prepare to assist families in our church and school. If you would like to make a donation please place your gift in the offering plate marked "Christmas Cheer" or drop off in our church office. Thank you for your kindness in helping to make Christmas a little more cheery for some families and friends.

Desk calendars for 2025, compliments of Burton, Quinn, Scott Funeral Home, are available at the welcome tables so you can begin scheduling all your upcoming events. Please feel free to take as many as you wish.

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.

Worship Matters

Why isn't Pastor Jay preaching from the pulpit? In this season—as we are reminded in the salutation at the readings, "Hear the One for Whom We Wait. **Thanks be to God.**"—we are waiting in this season for the Word Incarnate. We are waiting for the very Word of God Made Flesh. Our waiting is not just for a once upon a time moment in human history in Bethlehem all those years ago but our every day. We are living as Advent people; living in expectant hope for the Word's returning. This is further accentuated by our gospels in this season. For three of our four weeks of Advent Jesus doesn't show up. He's not in the texts. He's not even mentioned in two of them! We are waiting. As such, to draw our attention to the waiting, Pastor Jay will be preaching from the lectern where all our other readings are done. We will have one place from which we hear The Word and we will wait together for the day when the Word will be Flesh among us again.

Christian Education

Adult Forum will meet Sunday, December 8 at 9:15am in the library. Our topic will be *Singing with Luke*. Join us in December as we explore with Zechariah, Mary, Simeon, and the angelic host.

Sunday School for PreK-Grade 5 will meet Sunday, December 8 at 9:30am. Bring your little ones to join us.

Brown Bag Bible will gather each Wednesday in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic for December–February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God's people.

Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, will meet the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on January 13 we will begin the book *The Amen Effect, Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts* and World by Sharon Brous. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) gathers at Calamari's the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book **Context** by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat. B.A.D. will not meet in January.

A Time for Burning – In 1964, a documentary team journeyed with a Lutheran congregation in Omaha, NE as they discussed and journeyed through integration in their community and specifically in their congregation. The subsequent film was called *A Time for Burning*. As part of the 60th anniversary of the film, the ELCA and the Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice are presenting the film as well as interviews with some of the filmmakers, Presiding Bishop Eaton, and others. There is also talk of a new documentary about the process. We will gather in the Parlor on Tuesday, December 3 at 8:00pm for the livestream. This is being presented live from Church-wide Offices at 7:00pm CT. If you have questions or would like to RSVP, talk with Pastor Jay. RSVPs NOT necessary to come to the viewing, but they're helpful.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will meet December 10 and take December 24 off. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS will visit Penn State Planetarium on Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00am. Jim Gavio, Director of the Yahn Planetarium will share the Mystery of the Christmas Star. The program takes viewers on a journey to discover a scientific explanation for the star the Wisemen followed to find Baby Jesus. Cost of this event is \$5/person and due prior to December 4. A map showing where the Planetarium is on campus and parking permits are available from Jan MacInnes or the church office. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes or the church office no later than November 27.

OWLS annual Christmas party will be held Wednesday, December 18 in the parlor. Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm for a festive holiday gathering complete with carols accompanied by our cantor, Bryan Timm. The main dish for lunch will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. In the spirit of giving a collection will be taken which will be given to the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes by Friday, December 6.

Christmas Preparations

Blue Christmas Service will be offered Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00pm in our main church. For many the holidays are a difficult time, and we invite you to join us for this special service to hear a message of hope and love. The service will be live streamed and will also be available on our website the following day.

Family Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 15 at the 10:30am service. We are looking forward to our families taking part in our pageant. Please join us.

Cheer baskets will be delivered to our homebound friends on Sunday, December 15. The baskets will be prepared on Saturday, December 14 at 9:30am. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Carol Davidson at 814-323-4223 or the church office. Thank you.

Youth Event

The annual Christmas Extravaganza is coming up on Friday, December 6. The plans this year are a surprise and our youth in grades 6-12 are sure to have a great time. Join us from 5:30-9:30 and get in that holiday spirit. RSVP to Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski or the church office by Sunday, December 1.

Outreach Ministry

Handmade Quilts that were blessed during worship on November 17 were delivered to Community Shelter Services. They were thrilled with how beautiful the quilts are and have many residents that can use them. The Shelter provides housing for men, women and children and everyone is served 3 meals daily as well as an evening snack. Shower facilities are also available. They shared that quilts would be most welcome at any time and during the upcoming winter months hats are needed. What we are able to do for them is 'God's Work. Our Hands'!

Items to Note

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	Dave Parsh	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Matt, Jessica Kinzig & family	Virginia Long	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes
Marilyn Bohn & family	Rosanne Braine	Lois Smith	Ed Hokaj
Friends and Family:			
Kate Collins & family	Jenn	Norma Lynch	Jenn Eddy
Jessica Bulos Grubb	Phil F.	Donna Peck	Curtis Krick
Leigh Ann Fassnacht	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Fred Kern
Jean Coburn	Teddy & Rebecca	Branden Jones	Cheryl Atkinson
Tom Kraut	Kevin D.	Bernadette Mulder	Steve Sensor
Andy Zimmerman	Jim Roberts	Cheryl Runstedler	Dale Dannhaus
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn	Racheal Thompson	Joey & family	Michele Seifert
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Phil	Jane	Amy S.
Grief:			
Emma Houseman family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

December 2 – Psalm 90; Numbers 17:1-11; II Peter 3:1-18

December 3 – **Frances Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552** – Psalm 48; I Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 16:15-20 -- *A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).*

December 4 – **John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, 749** – Psalm 118:14-21; II Timothy 1:13-14, 2:1-13; John 5:24-27 -- *A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.*

December 5 – **Clement of Alexandria, 210** – Psalm 34:9-14; Colossians 1:11-20; John 6:57-63

December 6 – **Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 342** – Isaiah 10:33-11:9; Psalm 78:3-7; I John 4:7-14; Mark 10:13-16 -- *Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.*

December 7 – **Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397** – Ecclesiasticus 2:7-11, 16-18; Psalm 27:5-11; Luke 12:35-37, 42-44 -- *While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith. His words are found in the hymn Savior of the Nations, Come which is Luther's translation of Ambrose's Advent hymn.*

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2		LMA & Church Offices Closed
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3	12:00pm 3:00pm	Deborah Circle W/ELCA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4	11:00am 3:00pm 6:30pm	OWLS (Penn State Planetarium) SVEA Meeting Bible After Dark (Calamari's)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal LMA Christmas Fair
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6	5:30pm	Youth Extravaganza LMA Christmas Fair
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

Adult Forum will be held at 9:15am.

Sunday School will be held for PreK-Grade 5 at 9:30am.

St. Lucia Festival will be held at 3:00pm with a reception following.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector	10:30am	Eric Hedlund
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Rob Cooney, Jeff Swanson
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty

***The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Main Church***

- 5:30 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, BRYAN TIMM
- 6:00 P.M. COMMUNION AND CAROLS
Worship service in the Sanctuary with
Children's Message
- 10:00 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, BRYAN TIMM
- 10:30 P.M. COMMUNION AND CAROLS
Worship service in the Sanctuary



We invite you to come, worship, and celebrate the birth of our Lord.



***The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Main Church***

- 10:30 A.M. PAJAMA WORSHIP!
One service will be held on Christmas Day in the Sanctuary.
Wear your comfiest and most festive PJs!