

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



26 FEBRUARY 2023
The First Sunday in Lent
10:30 am

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

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



26 FEBRUARY 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Ten • 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 – "Preludes No. 2 in D, No. 3 in E-Flat & No. 4 in F"

J. G. Albrechtsberger (1736 - 1809)

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

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.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P Holy God,
C we confess to you our faults and failings.
 Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
 we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
 we spoil rather than steward your creation;
 we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
 we choose fear over compassion.
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
 as we seek to follow in your way of life.
 Amen.

P Hear the good news:
 God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
 so that all may receive life.
 This promise is for you!
 God embraces you with divine mercy,
 ☩ forgives you in Christ's name,
 and revives you in the Spirit's power.
C Amen.

*This text by a Canadian poet and hymn-writer fits the Lenten journey well, although it was written with a more personal idea of two individuals journeying together in their community.
 The Welsh tune is anonymous, perhaps from the early 19th century.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 326

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

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

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” ^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

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



- ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- ²Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **R**
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
- ⁶I said “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- ⁸You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **R**
- ⁹“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
- ¹⁰Do not be like horse or mule which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
- ¹¹Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- ¹²Be glad you righteous and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy all who are true of heart. **R**

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

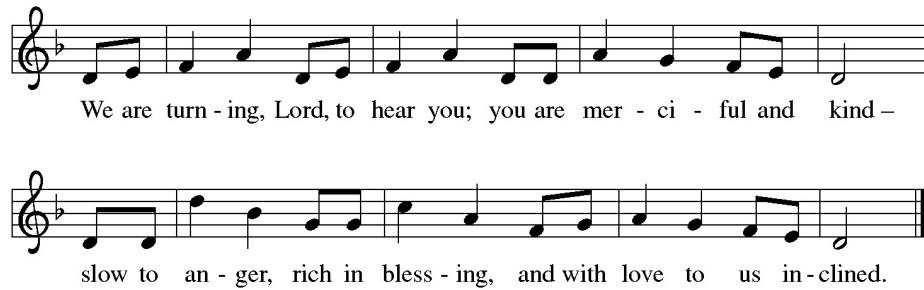
¹²Just as sin came into the world through one human, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the trespass of one, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like the effect of the sin of one human. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the trespass of one, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as the trespass of one person led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one person leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of one the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness.
As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘God will command the angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus said to the devil, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to the devil, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve God alone.’” ¹¹Then the devil left Jesus, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Lundwall

Please stand as you are able.

*The author of this hymn was an English writer with a strong interest in the education of children.
This hymn was published in her Child's Book of Praise as well as in other collections.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 319

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration, including Norma and Miriam in our church office. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love, including the people of Turkey, Syria, and Madagascar. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, nursery attendants, members of the Congregational Life Committee, and those who will prepare and serve our Lenten luncheons. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 leaves Philadelphia to begin his ministry with us. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age, especially Robert C. Chaffee and Millard Graffius. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

P 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

ANTHEM – "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"
(after Gabriel Fauré's Pavane)

arr. Mark Schweizer

*Lord, who throughout these forty days, For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.*

*As Thou with Satan didst contend, And didst the victory win,
Oh, give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to conquer sin.*

*As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst, So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live By Thy most holy Word.*

*And through these days of penitence, And through Thy Passion-tide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesu! with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering overpast,
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!*

Please stand as you are able.

*This brief song may be especially fitting as an invitation to communion or as the assembly communes.
It originated as part of a Music that Makes Community workshop held in Park Ridge, Illinois, in 2011.
At these events participants are given creative space to compose "paperless music," songs that can be learned
without the aid of books or printed material. After being sung around the church,
it became better known through the publication Singing in Community (Augsburg Fortress, 2017).*

OFFERTORY

ELW 481

(Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation.)

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

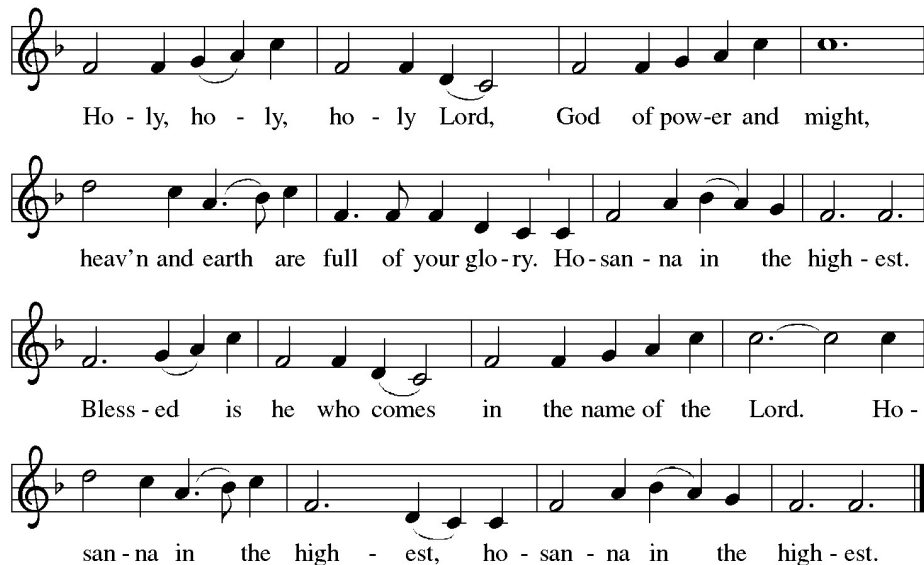
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O God, Creator of our wilderness world,
O God, Savior of the lost,
O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,
we give you thanks for your everlasting might;
we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.

For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.

For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.



*On the night before he died 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 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 extol his life. Amen:

C Amen.

P We lament his death. Amen:

C Amen.

P We celebrate his resurrection. Amen:

C Amen.

P Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.
Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.
Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.
Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.
Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.
At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.

P To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C 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.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C Amen.

P 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 in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

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.

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 785

When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

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

BLESSING

- P** God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
- C** Amen.

Translations from two 18th-century German poems make up the text of this hymn, a plea for guidance and protection in our daily lives. The hymn’s melody was published in Germany at the end of the 17th century.

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW 624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Serve in love.
- C** Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "Fugue in A Minor, Op. 8, No. 3"

J. G. Albrechtsberger

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— SERVING TODAY —

PREACHING – Pastor Karen Lundwall
GREETER – Gina Snider
ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer
ASSISTING MINISTER – Liz Stroup
LECTOR – Bill Lasher
USHERS – Sharon Burke, Doug Chaffee, Bill Lasher, Gina Sims
ALTAR GUILD – Loretta Deeds

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Robert C. Chaffee by his loving family.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Millard “Bud” Graffius, celebrating his birthday in heaven on February 24, by Linda and family.

Today’s Events

We invite you to join us in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for a time of fellowship and refreshments provided by our Women of the ELCA Tuesday Circle.

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.

First Holy Communion classes begin this morning and will continue each Sunday through April 2. Classes, led by Ann Flick and Beth Keller, are held from 9:30-10:15am. All children in grades 3 and up are invited to take part in these classes. If your son and/or daughter have 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.

Worship

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.

Christian Education

Children’s Church classes for PreK – grade 6 meet the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 – 10:15. Our next gathering will be Sunday, March 12. 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.

Lenten Opportunities

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; March 1 – March 29. All are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal; cost for each lunch is \$8. The main dish on March 1 will be macaroni & cheese.

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. We will gather in the main church for a Bible lesson and family activity from 6:15 – 7:00pm. Throughout the Lenten season we also encourage everyone to get on the road and do that “Walk” to Emmaus. By taking care of our bodies (His temple) we glorify God and are better equipped for what he has planned for us. So put on those comfy shoes and take a few extra steps during the week.

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. 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.

Youth Event

Calling youth in grades 6 and up! Bring a friend and join us for Pizza & Movie Night on Friday, March 24 from 5:30 – 8:30pm. Let's munch on pizza while watching "Jesus Christ Superstar Live" with John Legend. Please RSVP to Sarah at 814-882-1695 or the church office.

Your Health

TLC for bones is an important part of your health. Linda Graffius, Faith Community Nurse, will be sharing information about you and your bones on Friday, March 3 from 10:00 – 11:30am. Please contact Linda at lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org or Norma at 454-0106, ext. 221 or nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org to reserve your spot.

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 11th Street 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 –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Jan & Skip MacInnes	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	John Downey
Dave Parsh	Mark Howell	Mike Daniels	Paul Meucci
Torsten Carlson	Dave Birkner	Mary Laver	
Friends and Family:			
Dennis & Lori Sander	Elayne Morphy	Linda F.	Edie Jackman
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Branden Jones
Karen Dahlstrand	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
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Debbie	Gary Flick	Elise VanDamia
Grief:			
Bill Youngman family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27	3:30pm	Prayer Group
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28	10:00am	Magic Fingers Grace Group Newsletter Mailing
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1	12:05pm 12:35pm 5:30pm	Worship Lenten Luncheon Walk to Emmaus
THURSDAY, MARCH 2	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, MARCH 3	10:00am 6:00pm	LMA Read Across America Day Bone Health Gathering LMA Middle School Dance
SATURDAY, MARCH 4	11:00am	Youngman Funeral (Private)

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Michael Snider will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

First Holy Communion classes at 9:30am.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Lois Smith
Lay Distributor	8:15am	Stan Rose
	10:30am	Jan MacInnes
Altar Guild	8:15am	Jane Moran
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeters	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Counters	10:30am	Jean McMillin, Skip Meyn