

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



29 JANUARY 2023  
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:30 am

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

## 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*



**29 JANUARY 2023**

**THE FOURTH 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 – “French Suite No. 2 in C Minor”, BWV 813**

J. S. Bach

*Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Air, Minuet, Gigue*

#### 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

**INTROIT – “Blessed are the Pure in Heart”**

H. Walford Davies

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God:  
The secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.*

*Still to the lowly soul he doth himself impart,  
And for his dwelling and his throne chooseth the pure in heart.*

*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.

*This text is from the pen of an English clergyman who, in addition to serving several congregations during his life, edited and published three books of hymnody, of which one was an influential work.  
The tune was composed by a highly accomplished English musician, conductor, and editor.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 714

### O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
word and thought may work a work for you.  
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
may we each other's burdens share;  
may we, where help is needed, there  
give help as though to you.

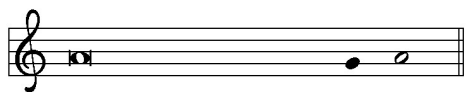
6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
all those who live to live in love,  
till you receive in heav'n above  
all those who live in you.

## 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.

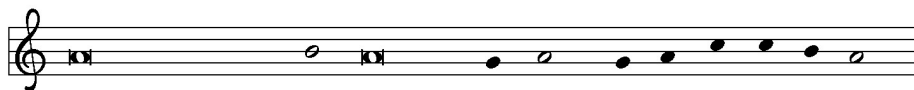
## KYRIE



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.



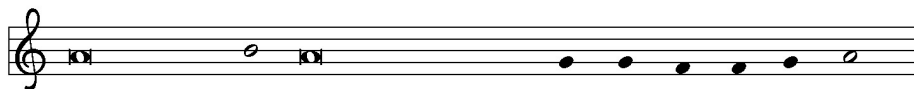
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel.*

*God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

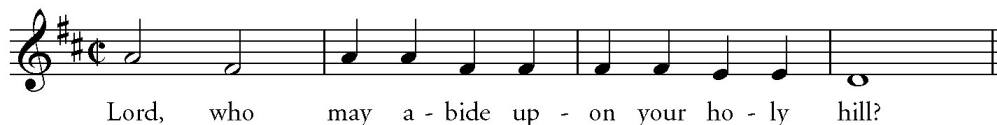
<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against the chosen people, and the Lord will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” <sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 15

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



<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,  
who speaks the truth from his heart;

<sup>3</sup>there is no guile upon his tongue, he does no evil to his friend;  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>In his sight the wicked is rejected,  
but he honors those who fear the Lord. **R**

<sup>5</sup>He has sworn to do no wrong  
and does not take back his word.

<sup>6</sup>He does not give his money in hope of gain,  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

<sup>7</sup>Whoever does these things  
shall never be overthrown. **R**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, my dear family: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

☐ 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.)*



*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.  
(Matthew 5:12)*

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

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And Jesus began to speak and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the dominion of heaven. <sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the dominion of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Michael Snider


*Please stand as you are able.*

*Text for this hymn is the work of a distinguished priest in the Anglican Church of Canada.  
The tune is taken from the composer's orchestral work The Planets.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 710

### Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;  
give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.  
The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,  
the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.  
Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;  
a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

## 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** Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God of love, sustain all who are connected to the ministry of Luther Memorial Church and Academy. Renew our ministry with a sense of purpose and passion. Guide us in our Annual Meeting today and continue to lead this congregation into the future with your promise of the Gospel. 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** Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place, especially Colleen and George Schaefer. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. 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*

### ANTHEM – “The Beatitudes”

Richard Shephard

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*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.”*

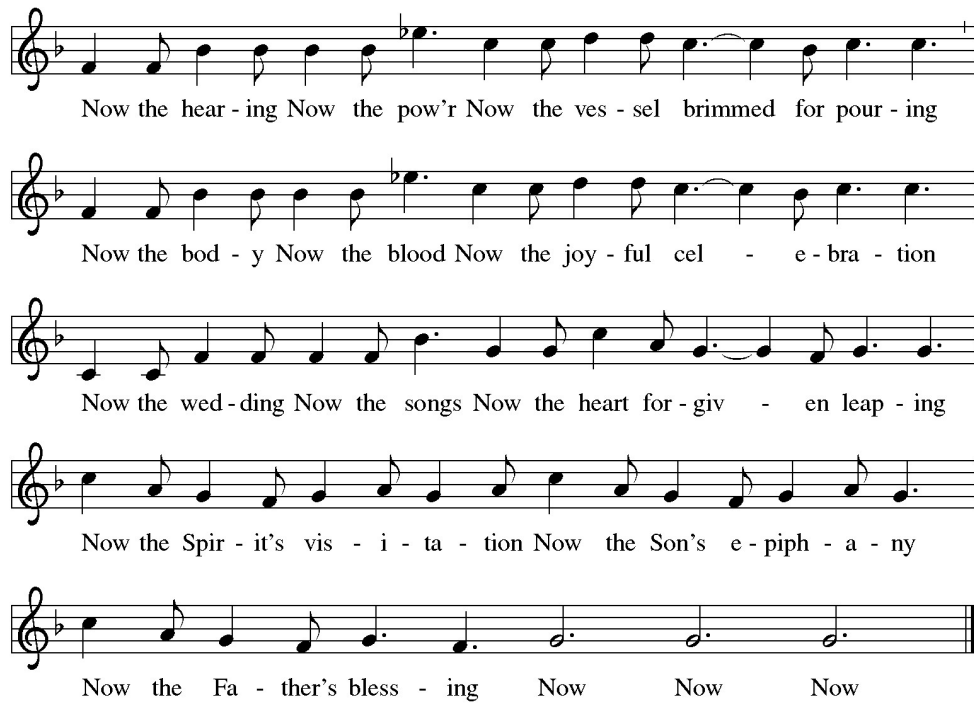
*The tune was written for the text in 1969.*

### OFFERTORY

ELW 460

### Now the Silence





Now the 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

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

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.**

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

**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. *Matthew 6:9*

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

## AGNUS DEI



**C** 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

**D** Come and taste the joy of God!

**C Amen.**

**D** 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.*

*This hymn text, variously attributed, is selected from among the 51 verses of the original poem. The tune is the work of a well-educated vicar of the Church of England, whose personality and devotion won him a substantial following, but whose high-church views conflicted with the low-church views of his bishop. On that account he was overworked and died at the age of 53.*

## HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 754

### Jesus, the Very Thought of You



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;  
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call  
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.  
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!  
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!  
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*The author of this hymn text was a minister of the Congregational church in 19<sup>th</sup> century New England, nationally recognized for his preaching and lecturing, as well as for writing over 30 books. The composer of the tune was a similarly distinguished cleric of the Church of England who wrote the melody for a different hymn text.*

ELW 818

## O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.  
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

*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.

*This hymn's text was written by a contemporary hymn-writer who felt the need for a straightforward closing hymn which would energize the congregation. The melody was composed by an 18<sup>th</sup> century English churchman of considerable accomplishment.*

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 551

### The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.s., b. 1939  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820  
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
- C** Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE – "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

Paul Bouman

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*PREACHING* – Michael Snider

*GREETERS* – Cheryl Brown, Richelle Denning

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Julie Ditz

*LAY DISTRIBUTOR* – Stan Rose

*LECTOR* – Lynnette Gustafson

*USHERS* – Kelley Lang, Carl Moore, Linda & Jeff Swanson

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my parents, Colleen and George Schaefer, by the Hedlund family.

### Today's Events

**Special offering** will be received this morning which will benefit the Bethany Outreach Center. Offerings may be placed in the pew envelopes and designated "Bethany Outreach Center". As we continue to help those in our community that are in need, we thank you.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held this morning following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service was not held. The Annual Report was emailed prior to this morning's meeting and copies are available to the congregation.

**Pick up** some goodies for home during the Annual Meeting this morning. Homemade soup and/or chili and delicious baked goods will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**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.

### Christian Education

**Children's Church** classes for PreK – grade 6 meet the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 – 10:15am. 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.

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**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 14 and 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.

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

**"Souper" Bowl Tasting** will be held Sunday, February 5 in fellowship hall following the 10:30 service. All are welcome to prepare a batch of their favorite soup to share. Tables will be set up in fellowship hall and everyone will have the opportunity for a sample taste. If you don't have the knack for making soup, please come and have a taste of the many varieties available. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

## **Your Health**

**Balance class** will be offered the first Friday of each month from 10:00 – 11:00am meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Our first gathering will be Friday, February 3. We invite you to join us and learn the many tools you can use to reduce your risk of falling and how to prevent injury. Please contact Linda Graffius, 454-0106, ext. 229, with any questions. Reservations are appreciated so materials are prepared for everyone.

## **Outreach**

**The Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national project sponsored by churches to help alleviate hunger in the community. Soup kettles will be at the entrances of the church on Sunday, February 5 if you would like to make a donation. All donations received are kept in our local community.

## **Luther Memorial Academy**

**LMA Open House** will be held Sunday, February 5 from 1:00 – 3:30pm. 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).

**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.

## **In Case of Emergency**

**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  
Dave Parsh  
Torsten Carlson

C. Noelle Partusch  
Mark Howell  
Dave Birkner

Chickie Braine  
Mike Daniels

John Downey  
Paul Meucci

#### **Friends and Family:**

Elise VanDamia  
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie  
Edie Jackman  
Jessica & Damian Ream  
Susan Brooks  
Brian Nicewonger

Elayne Morphy  
Mary Correll  
Nichole Jones  
Brittani H.  
Kevin

Linda F.  
Judy Skoog  
Bob Guenther  
Tom McGrail  
Tom Wilson

Linda F.  
Sue O'Mahony  
Christine Norris  
Meghan Kessler  
Dawn Weborg

#### **Grief:**

Mark Lechner family

#### **Our Military Service Men & Women:**

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson  
Ben Dixon

Michael Stickner

Andrew Watson

Alli Brown



## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**      11:30am      LMA Dismissal / Teacher Meeting

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**      5:30pm      Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30pm      Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3**      10:00am      Balance Class

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023** **THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

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

**“Souper” Bowl** tasting will be held in fellowship hall at 11:30am.

**Luther Memorial Academy** open house will be held from 1:00 – 3:30pm.

<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Stan Rose
Lay Distributor	8:15am	Jan MacInnes
	10:30am	Ann Flick
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeters	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	