

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



18 December 2022
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
10:30 am

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

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

18 DECEMBER 2022

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting III • 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 – "Savior of the Nations, Come", BWV 659

J .S. Bach

Partita on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Kenneth T. Kosche

- i. Chorale - *Savior of the nations, come!*
- ii. Bicinium - *By the Spirit was the Word made flesh*
- iii. Trio - *A virgin pure was found with child*
- iv. Chorale - *The Lord of all steps forth*
- v. Fughetta - *From God and back to God*
- vi. Tricinium - *The Father's equal*
- vii. Chaconne - *The darkness cannot overcome the light*
- viii. Toccata - *Gloria Patri...*

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

TEMPLE TALK – Call Committee Report

Tom Klomp

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – "Advent Meditation"

Douglas Wagner

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

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 Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

C Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,
C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

P People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✠ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen.

*These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas;
their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune
are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law



Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

- P** From the one who is and who was and who will come,
 and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection,
 grace and peace be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L** Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,
 sharing our flesh and bones.
 As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,
 so we wait and dream for you.
 Bless us and let your face shine upon us,
 more radiant than these candles,
 and more dear than all else we seek.
 Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,
 and banish all our fears.
 We pray in the name of Emmanuel,
 your promised child and our Savior.
- C** Amen.



The fourth candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Elaine & Lucy Kern; prayer by Elaine Kern.

Christ, Be Our Light

5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.
Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah.

In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help.

Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail.

The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore this very Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L The word of the Lord.

G 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.*)



*The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.
(Matthew 1:23)*

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

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Lundwall

Please stand as you are able.

*Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him.
Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line
of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 263

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;





Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church let us confess our faith

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.

THE PRAYERS

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

A God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, including Amnesty International and the United Nations. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A You guide us in all times of our lives. In this time of pastoral transition at Luther Memorial Church, strengthen all congregational members and leaders to hold firmly onto the promises of the Gospel, and continually give this congregation your wisdom and guidance. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You are invited to greet those around you in your pew with a word or a sign of Christ's peace.

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

*The Advent road to Bethlehem is paved with promise and hope;
Still travelers walking its winding path, with fears and sadness cope.
On ahead is peace for anxious hearts and refreshment for pilgrims all;
For at journey's end will be found a friend in the guise of an Infant small.*

Rejoice, rejoice, good news we have to tell: "To you shall come, Emmanuel."

*As darkness fills the endless sky, and a silence covers the earth,
Not a sign appears, not a sound is heard of the coming Savior's birth.
But the light is drawing closer in with each step along the way;
And a heavenly music now begins, as the night turns into day.*

Rejoice, rejoice, good news we have to tell: "To you shall come, Emmanuel."

Please stand as you are able.

*Text for this Advent hymn is from the pen of an extremely active Lutheran church musician.
This Minnesota native has served six Lutheran parishes in Maryland and southern Pennsylvania,
is a traveling clinician and consultant, and has published organ works, choral anthems and hymn texts
and tunes. He arranged the Yiddish folk tune for the present hymn, finding conviction
in the pairing of an Advent text with a Yiddish melody.*

OFFERTORY

WOV 630

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

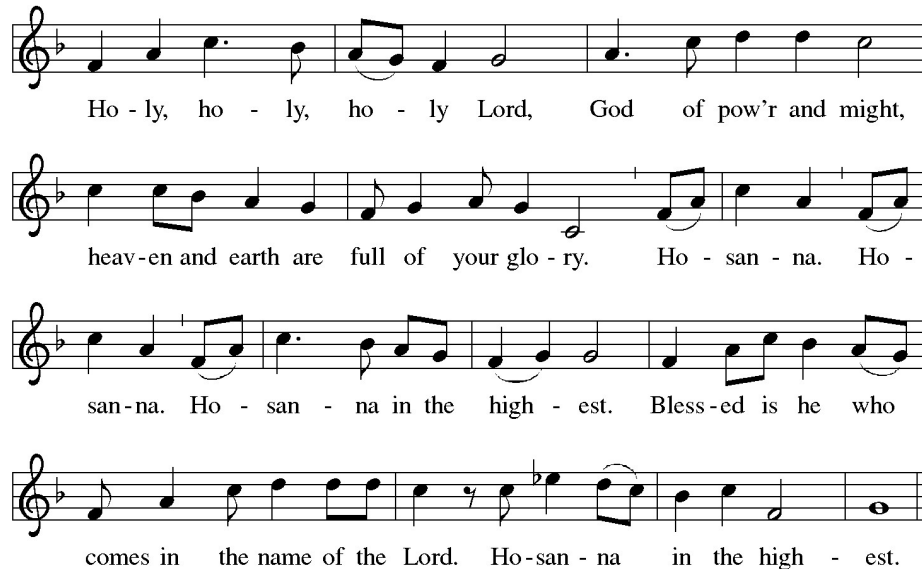
OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
- At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
- In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.



Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C Amen.

P 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.**

AGNUS DEI

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

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 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.

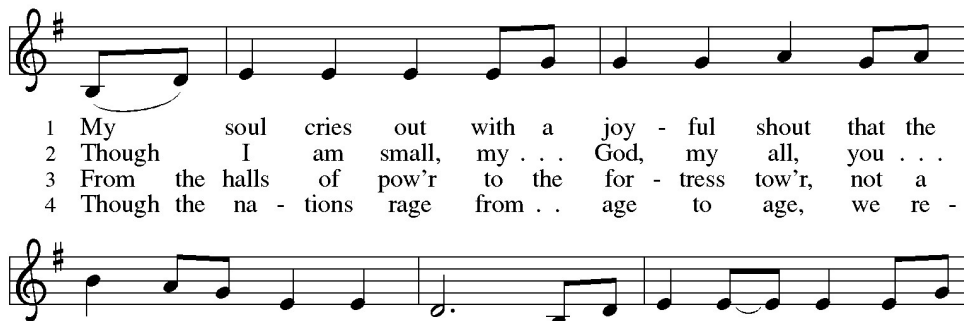
If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

Text of this hymn, based on the Magnificat, is the work of an accomplished contemporary liturgist and musical director in Illinois. He also arranged the Irish Traditional melody.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 723

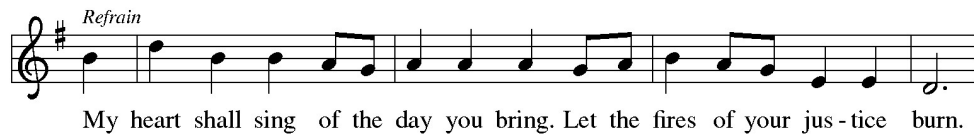
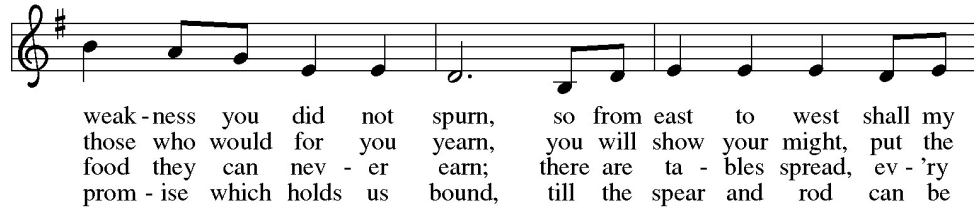
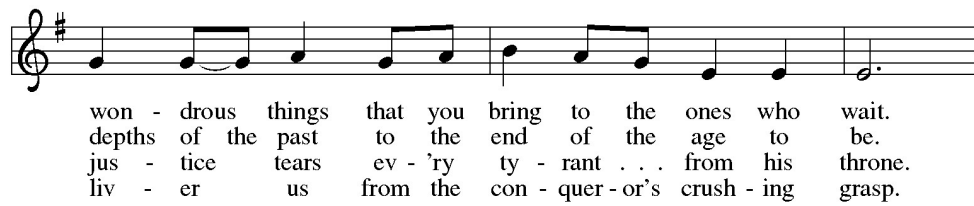
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -





Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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

- ☐ Faithful God,
 in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
 bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
 As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
 sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
 Guide us toward your promised future,
 coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
 ☑ **Amen.**

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

BLESSING

P God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

The text of this hymn is one of over 6,000 written by its author, who spent much of his life as a traveling preacher in England. The melody is one of many collected and published by "Singin' Billy" Walker, in an immensely popular volume which sold 600,000 copies in its first 25 years.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 254

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

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Fantasy and Toccata on 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'"

Austin C. Lovelace

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

PRESIDING – Pastor Karen Lundwall

GREETERS – Cindy & Eric Hedlund, Sally & Phil McAfee

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Michael Snider

LECTOR – Tessa Bartlett

USHERS – Sally & Phil McAfee, Elvin Montero, Marilyn Rositer

ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our Luther Memorial vocal and handbell choirs by Loretta Deeds.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Rose-Marie Rose's birthday on December 21 by her family.

Today's Events

Christmas Pageant will be presented during our 10:30 service this morning. Families will be sharing interesting history on the ornaments that adorn our church Christmas trees.

Cheer baskets will be delivered to our homebound friends beginning today. If you would like to help in any way, please see Linda Graffius. Thank you.

Christmas joy will be shared at the **ReCharge** contemporary service this afternoon. We will gather at church at 3:15 and sing carols at Perry Square from 3:30-4:00pm. A delicious Christmas dinner and games will welcome us back to church for some fun. Our worship service will be held from 5:00-6:00pm.

Stop in the parlor this morning for your jigsaw puzzle fix. Puzzles are available for swapping the third Sunday of each month. Books for all ages are also a great find on our travelling cart as well.

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.

Desk calendars for 2023, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

Symphonic Singers of Erie would like to help get you in the Christmas spirit and invite you to their Christmas Concert this afternoon at 3:00 at the Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Road.

Worship

We are returning to the use of the pouring chalice during the distribution of communion. When you come forward by the center aisle, take a small empty cup from the tray 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. The assisting minister will pour the wine into your cup from the pouring chalice. Place the empty cup on the trays at the side aisle.

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.

Stewardship

Commitment forms are in your bulletins this morning. We ask that you prayerfully consider how to participate in the coming year's ministry through worship offerings. Your commitment is not only helpful to the church council in the ministry planning process but they also are helpful to each of us as we budget the use of our resources. With the assurance of God's continuing love and Grace, joyfully submit your commitment by placing it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Music Ministry

Every year, the Luther Memorial Concert Series sponsors a concert of Christmas music preceding our Christmas Eve services. This year, quiet, intimate carols and lullabies will be presented on piano, organ, flute and cello. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the 6:00 and 10:30pm service times to hear the full programs, i.e. beginning at 5:30 and 10:00pm. The 6:00pm service will include music by our vocal and handbell choirs while soloists and small ensembles provide music for the 10:30pm service.

Christian Education

Children's Church for PreK – grade 6 gathers 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.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. We will not gather on Tuesday, December 27. Begin 2023 by keeping those knitting and crocheting needles busy and join us January 10 and 24. 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.

OWLS are doing some long range planning for a very special event on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. A Valentine's Day luncheon will be held at the Convention Center from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge and parking is free. Only a certain number of reservations are accepted by the Convention Center and these fill up very quickly. Reservations were due by December 15. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with any questions. Thank you.

Christmas is A-comin'

Mitten Trees, located in the parlor hall, are being decked out with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. These will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center for distribution during our cold winter months ahead. Blankets are also welcome and may be placed under the trees. Thank you.

We invite you to carol your way to Christmas with us on Thursday, December 22. Our school children will gather in the main church from 10:30-11:00am to sing carols along with a couple of surprises. We hope school families and our church families will join us for caroling.

Luther Memorial Church Policy

Masking at Luther Memorial Church is now optional.

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

C. Noelle Partusch Chickie Braine
Mark Howell

John Downey

Friends and Family:

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

Marie Checkley Tammy Fuller
Mary Correll Judy Skoog
Melissa Geiser Bob Guenther
Brittani H. Tom McGrail
Kevin Tom Wilson
Elayne Morphy Carolyn Luebka

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

Grief:

Henry Gilbert family
Pastor Ralph Storm family

Kaitlyn Farley family Phyllis Goldhart family

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson
Ben Dixon

Michael Stickner Andrew Watson Alli Brown



The Nativity of Our Lord
Saturday, December 24, 2022
Main Church

5:30 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER

6:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER

10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

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



**Our Christmas Day worship service will be held
at 10:30am in our main church.
One service will be held.**

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19		LMA Christmas Fair
	6:00pm	PTL Meeting
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20		LMA Christmas Fair
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21	6:00pm	LMA Christmas Fair
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22	10:00am	Christmas Caroling / Main Church
	11:30am	LMA Dismissal
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23		Church Offices and LMA Closed
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Concert
	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
	10:00pm	Christmas Eve Concert
	10:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022 CHRISTMAS DAY

Pastor Karen Lundwall will preach at the 10:30am service in the main church. One service will be held on Christmas Day.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Altar Guild	10:30am	Loretta Deeds
Greeters	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	Skip Meyn, Stan Rose