

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



19 DECEMBER 2021
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's 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

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. ROY WASHILL

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

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL

Academy Administrator



19 DECEMBER 2021

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Three • 8:15 & 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 – "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

"Three Carols"

What Child Is This?

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Sussex Carol

(Barb Moore, flute)

J. S. Bach

David Ferreira

Peter Crisafulli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

☩ Amen.



L Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L God for whom we wait,

C in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

L God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✠ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C Amen.

*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.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

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.

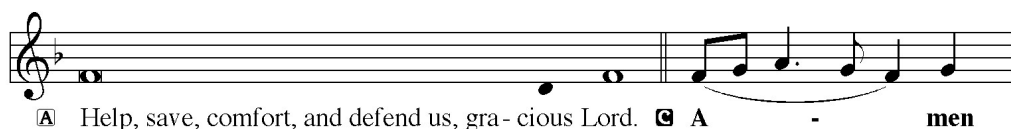
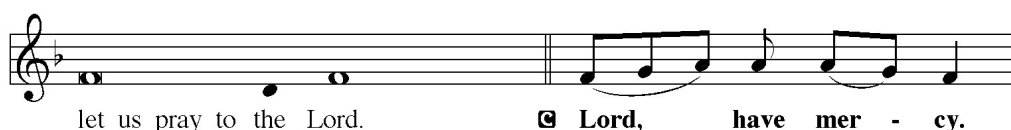
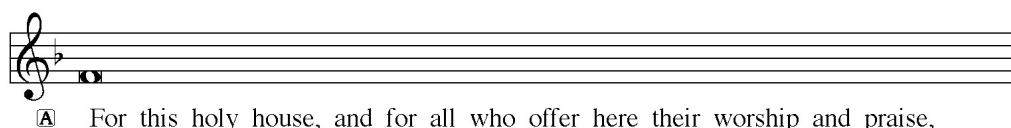
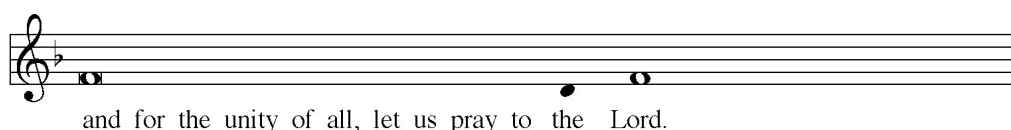
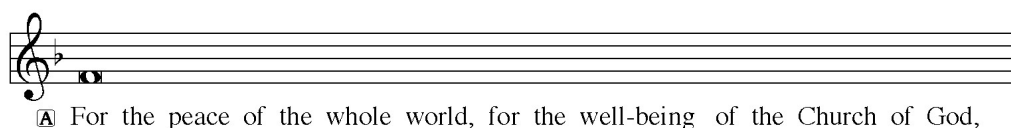
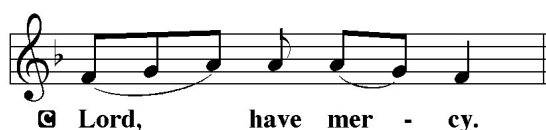
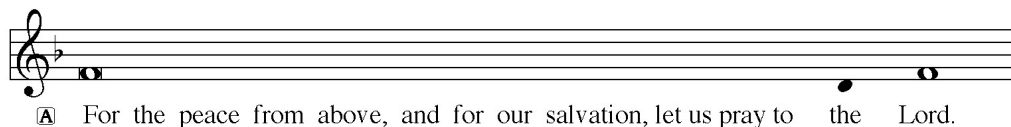
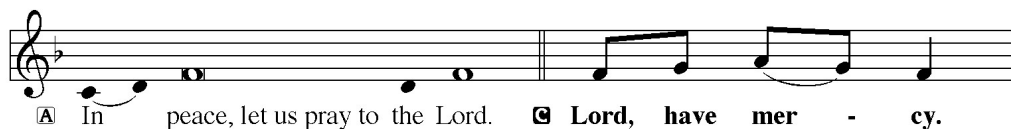
6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:14

L 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.

KYRIE Luke 17:13



PRAYER OF THE DAY *Ruth 2:4*

℣ The Lord be with you.

℣ And also with you.

℣ Let us pray.

℣ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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

℣ We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

℣ Amen.



8:15 The fourth candle of the Advent Wreath will be lit by Keri, Rob, Alexander & Annabelle Cooney; prayer by Ely Cooney.

10:30 The fourth candle of the Advent Wreath will be lit by Kristen & Addison Botelho; prayer by Gabriel Botelho.

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.





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

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem.

(Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace.

New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 (*sung in alternation*) (8:15 am Service)



^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness [|] of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in [|] God my Savior,
⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your [|] lowly servant.
From this day all generations will [|] call me blessed:



⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**

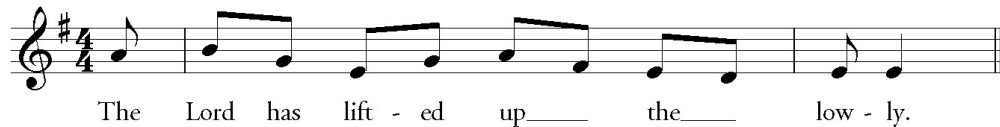
⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 (10:30 am Service)

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



^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blest;

⁴⁹The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

⁵¹He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

⁵²He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the help of his servant Israel,

For he has remembered his promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming.
Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become t
he greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”



⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

[⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.



⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”]

- 📖 The Gospel of the Lord.
- 🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON (8:15 am Service)

Michael Snider

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – “The Advent” (10:30 am Service)

Please stand as you are able.

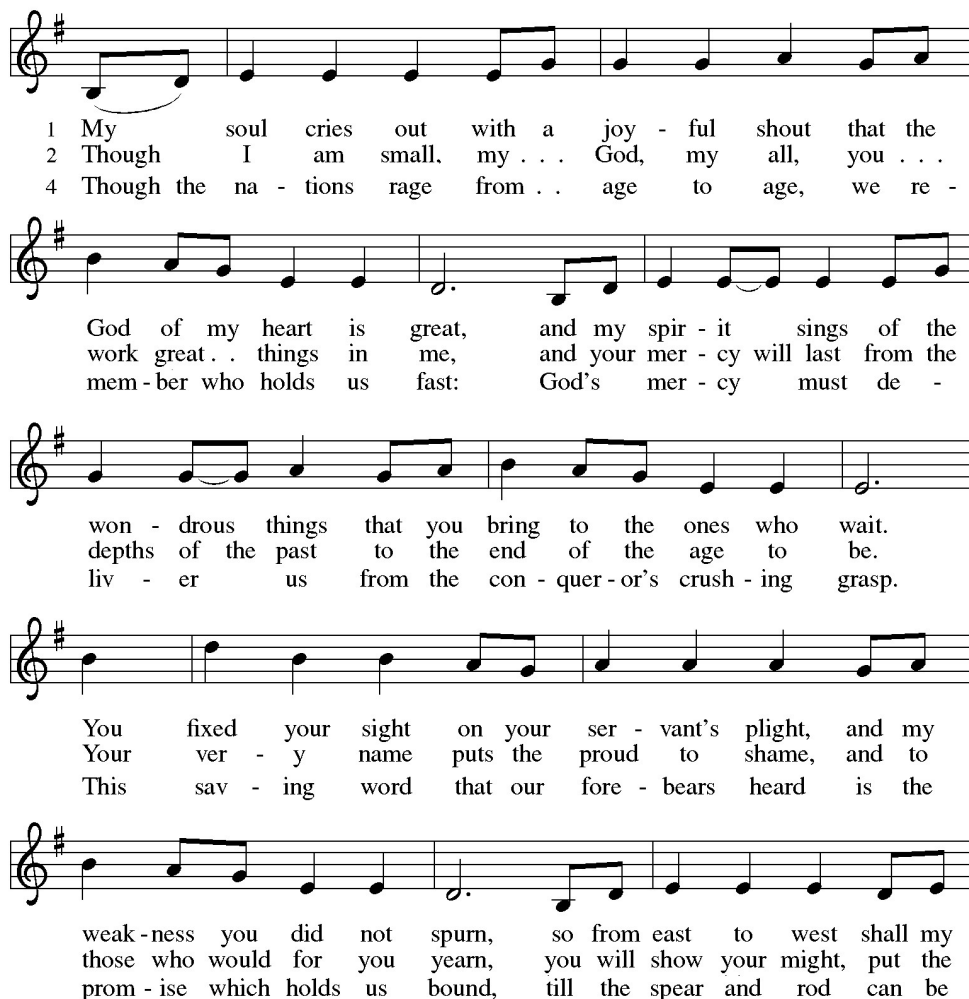
*Rory Cooney is an accomplished composer, skilled liturgist and parish music director.
His music expresses a deep reverence for the text as well as a lively concern
for the practical needs of the parish.*

*Canticle of the Turning is based on the Magnificat (Song of Mary).
The melody is the popular Irish tune “Star of the County Down” which first appeared
as the song “Gilderoy” from Pills to Purge Melancholy, published between 1698 and 1720.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
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
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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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 *1 Timothy 2:1*

A In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community, Bethany Outreach Center and Second Harvest Food Bank. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. Romans 16:16

Please be seated.

VOLUNTARY – "An Advent Prelude" (8:15 am Service)

arr. Charles Callahan

(Barb Moore, flute)

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
No light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear;
Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

*"O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun,
And you are requested to mother God's Son."*

*This child must be born that the kingdom might come:
Salvation for many, destruction for some;
Both end and beginning, both message and sign;
Both victor and victim, both yours and divine.*

*No payment was promised, no promises made;
No wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
Replied with conviction, "Tell God I say yes."*

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

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

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.

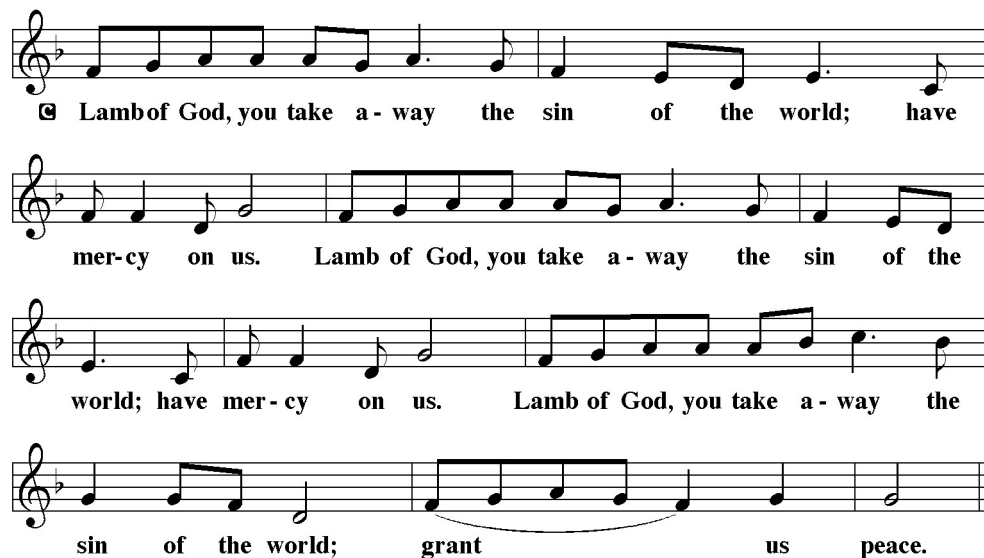
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen. Matthew 6:9

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

AGNUS DEI



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come to Christ’s banquet.
Feast on God’s gift of grace.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.
(10:30 am Service)

The congregation is seated.

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 and maintain appropriate physical distancing.

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.

COMMUNION *John 1:29*

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

(Barb Moore, solo handbells)

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

☐ Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

☑ **Amen.**

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

BLESSING

☐ The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.


☑ **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.
- G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Savior of the Nations, Come" (BWV 661)

J. S. Bach

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— SERVING TODAY —

PREACHING – Michael Snider
ACOLYTES – Krista & Kara Partusch (10:30 am)
ASSISTING MINISTERS – Rob Benacci (8:15 am)
Lois Smith (10:30 am)
FIRST READING – Jasmine Eagle (10:30 am)
SECOND READING – Miley Schill (10:30 am)
FLUTE & HANDBELLS – Barb Moore
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jan MacInnes (8:15 am)
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Elaine Kern, Stan Rose, Kathy Weisman (10:30 am)



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in thankfulness for our extended family of Care Ministers for their months of food preparation for so many 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

The Luther Memorial Concert Series will present another **Sunday Morning Mini-Concert** this morning. In the new format, soloists and small ensembles present special music for the Prelude and Voluntary about once a month. **Barb Moore** will be our performer and will present several **flute and handbell** Advent & Christmas solos. In subsequent months, we will hear other musicians from within our congregation. Plan to be in your seats early enough to hear the full 10-12 minute prelude on each of these Sundays. Finally, "thank you" to all who support the LM Concert Series through your donations, attendance and words of support.

Our Christmas pageant will be presented during the 10:30 worship service this morning. Thank you to our families for taking part in this year's pageant.

Offering envelopes for 2022 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.

The people of Luther Memorial Church were asked on Christ the King Sunday, November 21, to take the opportunity to make their financial commitments to this ministry for the year 2022. Church Council are so thankful and very aware of how blessed we are that you continue to support this ministry with your time, talents and treasure. It is so important for all members to make your financial commitments for 2022, as it will be very helpful for our planning and budget purposes. Additional commitment cards are available in the church office.

Pictures are being taken for a new Pictorial Directory. Many have not yet had their picture taken and we hope that you will stop down to the church, email or text a picture to us.

- Pictures will be taken during the week from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Please stop in our church office and Norma will meet with you to take your picture.
- We also welcome you to email or text pictures. Pictures may be texted to 814-450-7162 or emailed to nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org.

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.

Christian Education

Children's Church classes are held Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15am in the classroom next to fellowship hall. Masks are worn and all safety protocols are followed. We hope to see many of our children join us. Our class schedule is as follows:

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – first Sunday of the month (not meeting in January)
- Grades 1-3 – second Sunday of the month (January 9)
- LYO – third Sunday of the month (**December 19**)
- Grades 4-6 – fourth Sunday of the month (January 23; will not gather in December)

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group will fill you with holiday cheer when we get together for those knitting and yarn projects. We hope to see you on Tuesday, December 28! Join us from 10:00am – 12:00 noon the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month to get creative. Masks are worn and safe distancing protocol is followed. Please contact Norma in the church office or Jan MacInnes with any questions, 454-0106.

Outreach

New adult men's underwear and long johns will be collected through this morning. All items will be distributed to local shelters. Items may be placed in the box marked "Shelter Collection" located in the parlor hall. Thank you.

Christmas Preparations

Mitten Tree is ready for decorating with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. These items will be used by the Bethany Outreach Center to give some extra warmth to many during the cold winter months. Blankets are also appreciated and may be placed under the tree. 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.

Scheduling Ahead

Desk calendars for 2022, compliments of Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are available at the hospitality tables. Please take a few for your 2022 schedules.

Luther Memorial Church Policy – Following the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines

In accordance with the Pennsylvania mask mandate in place, it is necessary for all those worshipping at Luther Memorial Church wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. We continue to respect your choice for physical distancing. Thank you for your cooperation.



The Nativity of Our Lord Friday, December 24, 2021 Main Church

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| 5:45 P.M. | PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER |
| 6:00 P.M. | CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY
CANDLELIGHT AND HOLY COMMUNION |
| 10:15 P.M. | PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER |
| 10:30 P.M. | CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CANDLELIGHT AND HOLY COMMUNION |

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

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20		LMA Closed
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21		LMA Closed
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22		LMA Closed
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23	6:00pm 7:00pm	Handbells Choir LMA Closed
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24	5:45pm 6:00pm 10:15pm 10:30pm	Pre-Service Christmas Concert Christmas Worship Pre-Service Christmas Concert Christmas Worship School & Church Offices Closed
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021 **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

Pastor Karen Lundwall will preach at the single worship service at 10:30am in the main church. The 10:30am service is live streamed on our church YouTube Channel; go to YouTube, in the search bar type in “Luther Memorial Church, Erie, PA”. Subscribe to the channel.

The recorded service is also available on Luther Memorial Church’s website at www.luthermemorialonline.org by clicking on the tabs of “Resources & Online Worship” and “Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study”.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Sarah Prylinski	Dorothy Overberg	Judy Crissman	Cathy MacGregor
Mike Daniels	Dorothy Respecki	Lois Fobes	Bill Grande
Tim Houston	David Ruler	Jessica Copfer	Peyton Thomas
Joyce Zwilling	Mark Howell	Laura Beth Kraut	Shirley Brown
Julie & A. J. Chandler	Suzanne Franks	Linda Soles	Mark Lechner
Rosanne & Roy Strausbaugh	Dave Mumford	Kathy & Ken Kraut	Nancy Downey

Friends and Family:

Cecily DeMille	Patty Chadwick	Bob Sadowski	Bobbi MacInnes
Frank Nalepa	Kristen	Larry E.	Kirsten Braley
Roger Maki	Amy Valentine	Jesse McFadden	Abby
John & Naomi Howard	Ed Hokaj	Elijah Montero	Ray Polasky
Marianella	Linda Grimm	Gayle Rumbaugh	Shelly
Kim Robertson	Edna Pett	Bea Becknell	Shaffer family
Josie W.	Jeff F.	Kimberly Ferry	Juan Esparza
Amanda, Joe & Mitchell S.	Clarice Moore	Don Ingraham	Bob Guenther
Linda & Woody F.	Julie Pond	David	Debbie S.
Steven & Ally Soltesz	Paul Spierling	Frank S.	Mitch Dougan
Mike Cesnick & family	Ben Young	Pamela Hagele	Pam Torrelli
Chet & Pam W.	Bill	John Shafer	Norman Jensen
N. S.	Aiden Mack	Marie Checkley	Kim Hunkins
Tom Ridge	Ethan Polasky	Julie	Betsy
Laurie, Eric & family	Tom Kraut	Kayley Prinzi	Amy
Brandon Jones	Bruce Elfvin	Clarence Chase	Dick Lechner
Christian	Karen Botwright	Jeff F.	Sue Kuhn
Brandon & Stacey Campbell	Paula and Chet Bixby	Pete Battersby	Sue Gerke
Tom McGrail	Kathryn P.	Dr. Carl Seon	Sam Ruma
Missy & Jeff	Sue Agens	Sophia	Lesley
Jim Haskins	Dennis Chevalier	Patrick L	Paula Bauda
Marilyn Schultz	Ron Trisket	Sidney	Loraine Pond
Allison & Erick	Bryan & Bev	Judy Oosterkamp	Marianella
Carolyn & Viktor Soder	Meghan Kessler	Dorothy McCarty	Jim Schumacher
Bishop Michael Lozano	Lucas Smith	Steve & Leah W.	Scott Respecki
Noni Bennett	Ashlynn Rowane	Jim Sturm	

Grief:

Pastor Roy Washill family	Al Latronica family	Robert Peterson family	Betit family
Pastor Al Gesler family	Richard Thorn family	Kevin Kraut family	

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson
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