

Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



22 DECEMBER 2024
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

TOGETHER WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 DECEMBER 2024

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland”

J. S. Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

P Let us pray.

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

P God,

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

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

C Amen.

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

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

GREETING

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

KYRIE

The Kyrie musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is for the Cantor and All, with the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." repeated twice. The second staff is for the Cantor and All, with the lyrics "Christ, have mer - cy." repeated twice. The third staff is for the Cantor and All, with the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." repeated twice. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Please be seated.

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

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 they shall be given up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of the ruler's kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And the ruler 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 the ruler shall be great to the ends of the earth, ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L Hear the One for whom we wait.

C Come, Word of God.

Filled with Hope and Gratitude



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
 2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
 3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
 4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y

God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
 kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
 place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
 God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -

ta - tion,
 pres - sion.
 hun - gry.
 ta - tion,
 for God has smiled up -
 The pow - er - ful and
 The prom - ise to our
 for God has smiled up -

on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
 haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
 fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
 on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her

own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
 low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
 world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
 own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55
 Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” ⁸When Christ 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.” Christ 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.

☐ Hear the One for whom we wait.

☑ Come, Word of God.

Please stand as you are able.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(lighted by Paula, Tyler and Rylee Noble)*

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

Ⓔ God, we reach for unreasonable hope;

☞ **and you prepare an incomparable future.**

Ⓔ God, we breathe in your peaceful refuge,

☞ **for you have made a place where we can safely rest.**

Ⓔ Joy ebbs and flows each day, holy God.

☞ **so we pray to you in honesty.**

Ⓔ Your love grows unseen, holy God;

☞ **we prepare for you every day.**

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

Ⓔ Jesus, you shape the world around us, even when you remain just out of sight. As we listen today, help us prepare our lives for you with loving anticipation.

☞ **Amen.**



1. When twi - light leaves the even - ing sky and night re - veals the
2. When bit - ter days and bar - ren ground sap strength and pow - er and
3. When rough ter - rain makes prog - ress hard, God lev - els what's in the



stars, the far ho - ri - zon hope of God comes sing - ing to our hearts.
voice, ten - a - cious faith will hold us fast; God's hope will say, re - joice!
way; a ten - der jus - tice will car - ry us, and care will not de - lay.



Refrain
Your love is more than words, O God, a flame you kin - dle, a seed you sow, a



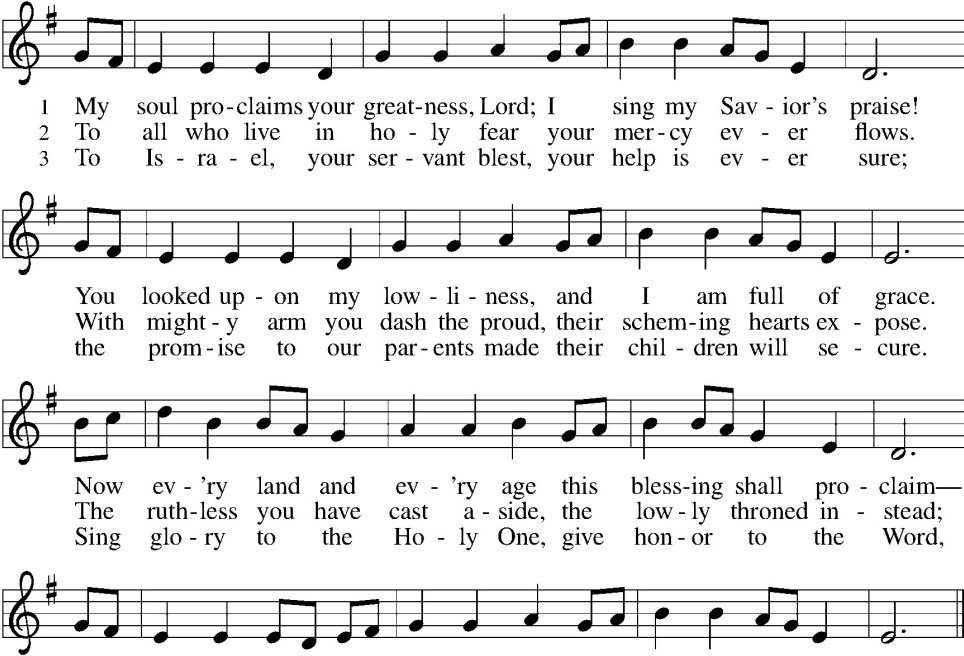
rose that blooms in the snow, and we will mag - ni - fy your love.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

Ⓔ The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 sang:



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

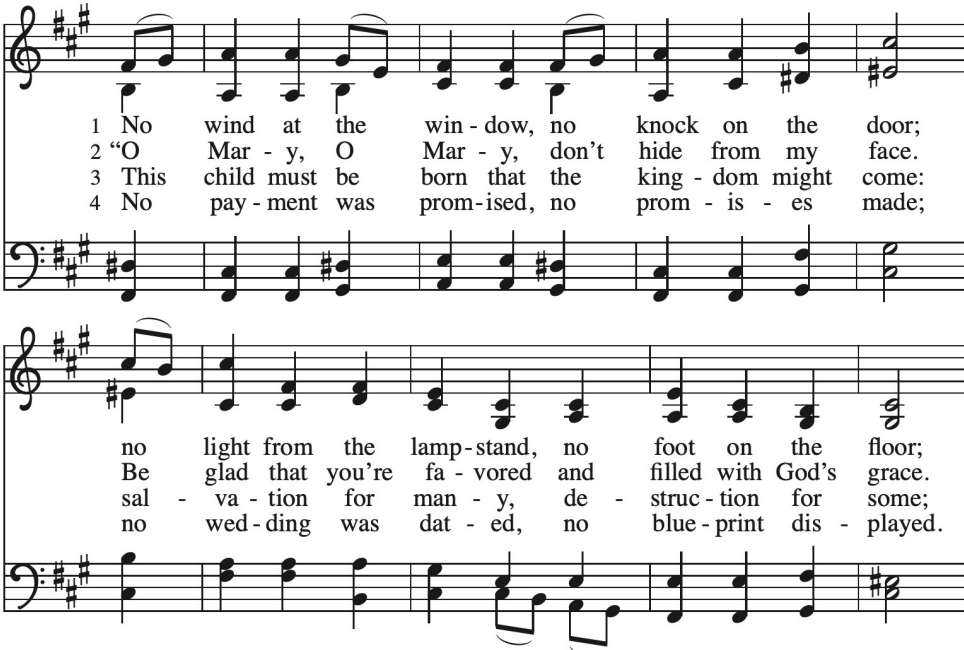
FAMILY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 906

No Wind at the Window



1 No wind at the win-dow, no knock on the door;
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
 3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
 4 No pay - ment was prom-ised, no prom - is - es made;

no light from the lamp-stand, no foot on the floor;
 Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
 sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
 no wed-ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing, the world has be - gun,
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,
just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine."
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: COLUMCILLE, Irish melody; arr. John L. Bell

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NICENE CREED

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

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

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

For us and for our salvation

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

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

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

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

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

You may kneel, sit, or stand as is your custom.

- A** Let us join with all creation in praying for the Church, those in need, and all of God's good creation crying out: Come, Lord Jesus!
- A** For the Church that we may look with hope to Christ's coming and stand boldly to proclaim him among us. With the Church, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** For the creation that in dormant animals, in snow and wind, in longer nights and darker days we may be reminded of God's goodness and glory. With creation, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** For the nations of the world that those who rule, govern, and lead may do so with a heart for justice and equity for all people. With the nations, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** For those who bear another's burdens, those who plow and clear streets, those who respond to emergencies, those whose jobs are essential, those who must travel. With those who work today, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** For the sick and suffering that they may know the peace of Jesus and the care of those who gather around them. For those whose names and needs we hold most dear: *here, you may offer names and need aloud or silently.* With the sick and suffering, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** For those in need, the under-housed and under-employed, the lonely and forgotten, those who cannot look with hope to Jesus' coming and who cannot find joy in this season that they may be surrounded in their need. With those in need, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** With thankfulness for all the baptized, those who have gone before us in lives of faith and holy living, and those whose faith was known only to you, we pray that we may be kept with all your beloved saints until we gather around your glory. With all the baptized, we pray:
 - C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Come, Lord Jesus, and quickly! Hear our prayers and come with your healing, your grace, your peace in all the ways you see that we need.
 - C** **Amen.**

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

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



THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

ANTHEM – “The Advent of our God”

R. Shephard

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

P The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS

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

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

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

mp
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

P And let the people cry,

C **O come and save us.**

*We praise you, serving and saving God, that you send your Son also to this table,
who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

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

P And let the people cry,

C **O come and save us.**

P Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P And let the people pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Blest be God, who is our Bread;
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your sovereignty 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

C **Amen. We come.**

P Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

AGNUS DEI

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

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

mer - cy on us. world, g

THE COMMUNION

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

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

*Baked bread is being used. For those who so desire, gluten-free wafers are available;
 please let the pastor know.*

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

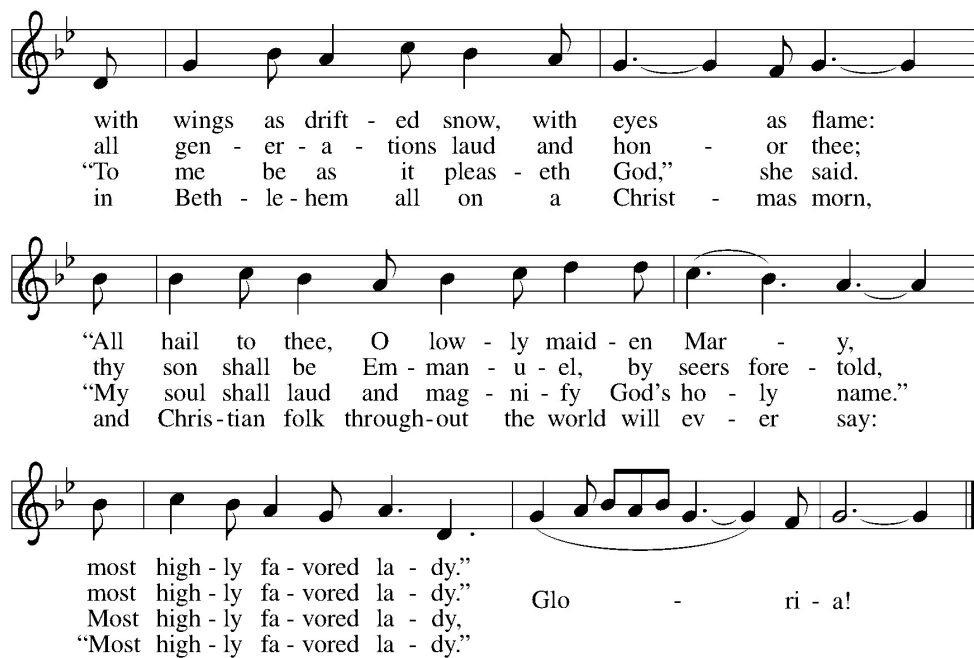
*All are invited to the Meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,
 please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

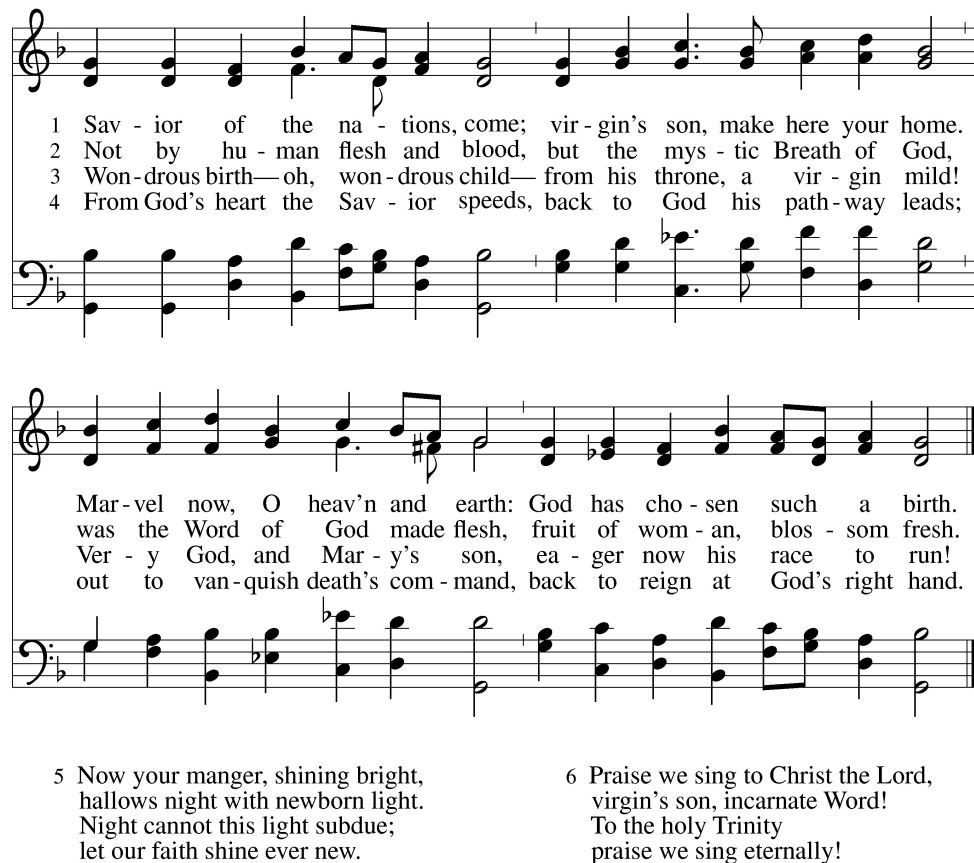
"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

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.

TABLE BLESSING

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

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

ELW 267

Joy to the World

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Joy to the World". It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the Soprano part. The lyrics are as follows:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Joy to the world, | the Lord is come! | Let earth re - | |
| Joy to the earth, | the Sav - ior reigns! | Let all their | |
| No more let sin | and sor - row grow | nor thorns in - | |
| He rules the world | with truth and grace | and makes the | |

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
re - peat the sound-ing joy, and heav'n and na - ture
flow far as the curse is found, and heav'n and na - ture
ness and won - ders of his love, and heav'n and na - ture
sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “Wachet Auf” Setting III

P. Manz

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell
GREETER – Pat Young
ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer
ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jeanne Gaber
LECTOR – C. Noelle Partusch
ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
USHERS – Cathy Beck, Sue Cappelletty, Jane & Dave Kinzig
VIDEO STREAMING – Sarah Prylinski



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Carol Schaal.

Columbarium flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Bill, by Carol Schaal.

Today's Events

Family Christmas Pageant will be presented this morning at the 10:30 service. We are sure you will enjoy this special Christmas service. Thank you to all of our families who are participating.

Desk calendars for 2025, 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.

Greeting cards can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

Worship Matters!

A Christmas carol in Advent? It seems to be a point of conversation about Advent carols vs. Christmas carols. The world around us has already decided it's Christmas. Heck, stores decided it was Christmas just after back-to-school shopping was over! *Some* would even tell you that the 12 Days of Christmas began on December 13 and end on Christmas Day. (We in the Church know better and extend our celebrations into the New Year!) Advent in the Church is a very counter-cultural season. The whole message of the season is to slow down, to wait, to watch, to hope, to expect, to consider *who* this season is all about. In doing this we make a powerful statement that it is not retail stores, the economy, the radio stations, society, government, or even our calendars that decides when Christmas is; it is not for them to decide when and how God comes in our midst. That is something we look expectantly to God to make real among us. For many, Advent is one of (if not The!) most beloved seasons. The blue, the candles, the waiting, the hymns and carols! Did you know that in our worship resources, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings*, there are more hymns dedicated to Advent than there are for even Easter! But then this week we sing *Joy to the World* as our Sending Hymn? Isn't it still Advent? Yes. Yes, it will be Advent until midnight on December 24. We will still be watching and waiting.

But *Joy to the World* is arguably not a Christmas carol as much as many have come to include it in their repertoire this time of year. Isaac Watts who first composed and authored it meant for it to be a hymn sung to celebrate Christ the King and based it on Psalms used to celebrate Holy Cross Day. And if we pay attention to the words and not just the music we hear the messages of Advent: "Let ev'ry heart *prepare* him room..." "Rocks, hills, and plains..." "Far as the curse is found..." "He comes..." These are all words, messages, **promises** we have heard in our scripture readings in this season. So, we sing it on this last Sunday of Advent as we look with anticipation (finally!) to the blessed birth. Mary is surely pregnant and nearly ready having visited Elizabeth for several months. There's no denying the baby's coming. It's time to prepare, to get ready, to sing with joy!

Church Office Hours

The Church Office will be on limited hours during the holiday weeks as our staff celebrates with their families. Please be patient with all correspondence and we will get back to you as soon as we can. The Office is open on Thursday, January 2 with normal hours.

Worship

On Sunday, January 5 we will celebrate Epiphany. Please bring your magi from your home nativity scene to our worship service that Sunday.

All are welcome to attend the **Erie Conference Epiphany Service with Burning of the Greens** which will be held Monday, January 6, 2025, at 7:00pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road. Celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord together with a candlelight Eucharist, with Pastor Kristen Papson preaching, followed by an outdoor burning of the Christmas greens. The Scandinavian custom of an Epiphany burning of the greens was introduced to Faith Lutheran by Pastor David Laakso; it has become a beloved local tradition. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the social hall. Dress warm for the bonfire; you may also watch from the comfort of the social hall if you prefer. A simple house blessing liturgy will be available to take and use at home this Epiphany season. If you would like to bring Christmas trees or greens from home to add to the bonfire, please contact Faith Lutheran Church to let them know.

Faith Formation

Prayers Arise, a Service of Evening Prayer, will be offered each Wednesday in January at 6:00pm. We will gather on the 5th floor for this half hour Vespers Service; January 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Brown Bag Bible gathers each Wednesday in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic for January–February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God's people. We will meet again beginning January 8, 2025.

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

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will not meet in January. Our gatherings will begin on February 5 at Calamari's at 6:30pm and continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book *Context* by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Come Caroling! We'll be singing all your favorites! Join in keeping the festivities going on December 27. Luther Memorial will be hosting *Caroling at the BrewErie* featuring The Great Traveling Organ. We will gather in the rotunda of the BrewErie from 5:00-8:00pm to sing and share in the season. Food and drink are on you. Caroling is on us! Bring family and friends for this fun night out!

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will not meet on December 24. We will begin our 2025 gatherings on January 14 and 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS Valentine Luncheon at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, will be held Friday, February 14, 2025 from 12:00-12:30pm. This event is attended by so many that to ensure your reservation we ask that you contact Jan MacInnes or Norma in the church office by the end of December. The entrées are sliced sirloin with red wine reduction and Mary Me chicken, along with oven roasted red skin potatoes and steamed broccoli. Also included is a side salad, bakery rolls with butter and for dessert, cake.

Pre-Christmas Event

Patterson School of Ballet will present a Benefit Performance directed by Michael Patterson on Monday, December 23 at 6:00pm at Luther Memorial Church. Admission is \$10 and all proceeds will benefit St. Vincent's Children's Miracle Network and Tuition Assistance Program. We hope you will join us.

Outreach

The Mitten Tree, located in the parlor hall, will remain up through January 5 so help us add some more decorations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. All items will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center and distributed to those in need during the winter season. Blankets are also appreciated and can be placed under the tree. Thank you.

Items to Note

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

December 23 – Luke 1:46b-55; Micah 4:6-8; II Peter 1:16-21

December 24 – **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE** – Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20

December 25 – **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAY** – Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

December 26 – **STEPHEN, DEACON AND PROTOMARTYR** – II Chronicles 24:17-22; Psalm 17:1-9, 15; Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60; Matthew 23:34-39

December 27 – **JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST** – Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31; Psalm 116:12-19; I John 1:1-2:2; John 21:20-25

December 28 – **THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS** – Jeremiah 31:15-17; Psalm 124; I Peter 4:12-19; Revelation 21:1-7

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Abbie & Ben Dixon
Matt, Jessica Kinzig & family
Marilyn Bohn & family

Dave Parsh
Virginia Long
Rosanne Braine

Rose-Marie Rose
Pat Gilbert
Ed Hokaj

Ron King
Lois Fobes
Ann Flick

Friends and Family:

Cheryl Runstedler
Jessica Bulos Grubb
Leigh Ann Fassnacht
Branden Jones
Bernadette Mulder
Andy Zimmerman
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail
Mary & Urban LaRicca
Cara & Bradley Kendra

Jenn
Phil F.
Janine Frank
Teddy & Rebecca
Kevin D.
Jim Roberts
Racheal Thompson
Phil
Carol Steffey

Norma Lynch
Karen
Casey Smith
Jean Coburn
Tom Kraut
Bev
Joey & family
Jane
Andrew Wachter

Jenn Eddy
Curtis Krick
Tom Dean
Cheryl Atkinson
Steve Sensor
Dale Dannhaus
Michele Seifert
Amy S.
Chris Beckman

Grief:

Tina Clark DiNicola family
Emma Houseman family

JoAnn Guilianelli family
Fred Kern family

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson
Ben Dixon

Michael Stickner
Lt. Col. Mark Collins
Andrew Watson
Christopher Rose

Alli Brown

C A L E N D A R

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 | 6:00pm | Patterson School of Ballet Benefit Performance LMA Closed |
| TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> | 5:30pm 6:00pm 10:00pm 10:30pm | Pre-Service Christmas Concert Worship / Communion and Carols Pre-Service Christmas Concert Worship / Communion and Carols LMA and Church Offices Closed |
| WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 <i>Christmas Day</i> | 10:30am | Worship (wear your comfy PJ's) LMA and Church Offices Closed |
| THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 | | LMA and Church Offices Closed |
| FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 | | LMA Closed |
| SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 | | |

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

| SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| ASSISTING IN WORSHIP | | |
| Assisting Minister | 8:15am | Rob Benacci |
| | 10:30am | Pat Bellingham |
| Altar Guild | 8:15am | Nancy Benacci |
| | 10:30am | Sharon Burke |
| Greeters | 8:15am | Vicky Blasco |
| | 10:30am | Stan Rose |
| Counters | 10:30am | Emma Chaffee, Mike Hedlund |
| Video Streaming | 10:30am | Gina Snider |
| Ushers | 10:30am | Diana Alvaro, Diane & Bob Banks |
| | | Cathy Beck |

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

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



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



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

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