

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus

...and quickly!



21 DECEMBER 2025
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

LMA Principal

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

WELCOME!

This is the day that the Lord has made. Together, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today: Almost everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You are invited to stand as you are able where indicated. Hymns are included in this bulletin, however if you need larger print, hymns may be found in the back of the red hymnal using the number indicated (#). Please join in singing all the music! Today especially we raise our voices in praise!

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!** You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to check in and let your friends know where you are!

~ We welcome all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).

~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

PRELUDE – “Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland”

P. Fey

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection. The assembly kneels or sits as is comfortable.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God’s timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

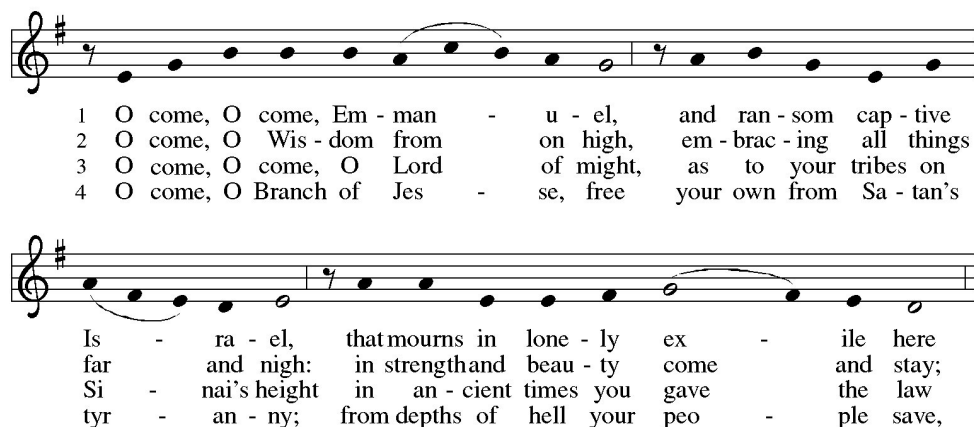
God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING 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
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

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
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

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

Grace to you and peace from the God who has always known you, the Savior who is already born, the Spirit who already knows what you'll ask. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

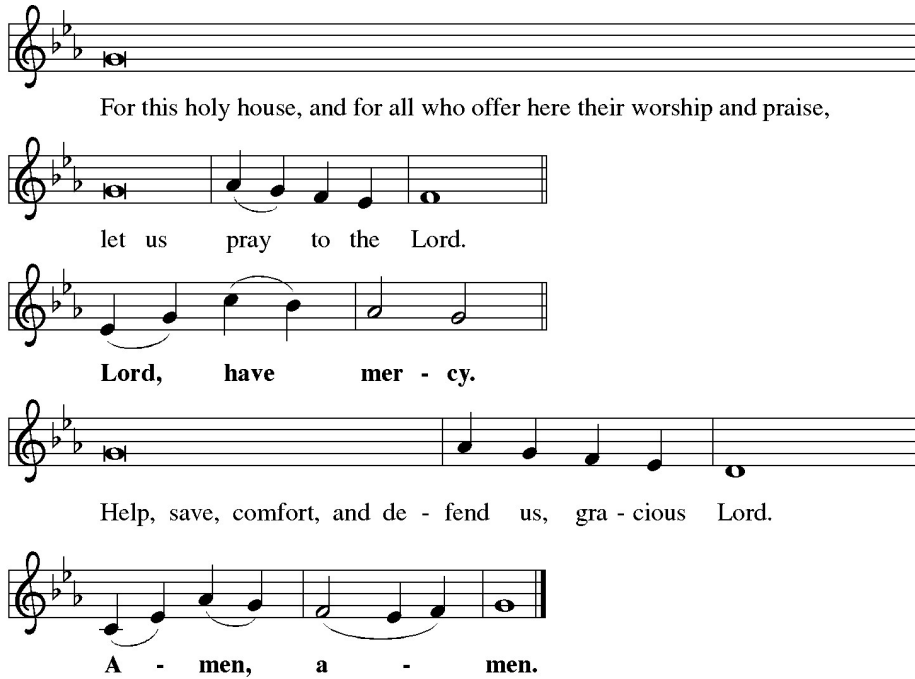
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Sir 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

The Spirit and the church cry out,

All who awaits Christ's appearing pray,

The whole creation pleads,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray: Come to us, Lord Jesus, as Cathy reads for us your holy Word. Keep us attentive to the truth of the scriptures; turn us away from myths, and turn us in faith to you, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask 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."

Hear the One for whom we wait. **Come, Word of God.**

PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19 TUNE: ROCKINGHAM OLD

O Shepherd, like a flock you lead your people Israel; hear our prayer;
enthroned upon the cherubim in glory, shine on our despair.

Before Manasseh, Benjamin, and Ephraim, Lord, grant us your grace;
restore us, O Lord God of hosts, and show the glory of your face.

How long will you be angered, Lord, although we kneel before your feet?
You give us bowls of tears to drink, provide us bread of tears to eat.

Our enemies laugh us to scorn, our neighbors witness our disgrace;
restore us, O Lord God of hosts, show us the glory of your face.

Let your almighty hand defend the people you have called your own;
the nation you have made so strong that they might honor you alone.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which God promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning God's Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear the One for whom we wait. **Come, Word of God.**

Having heard readings from the God who is still speaking, and as we await the coming of The Word in our midst in this season, we light our candles of waiting. The assembly rises in body or spirit as we greet the Gospel.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Candles will be lighted by Andres, Angela, Adam, Evan and Kennedy Duran (Caiden Snider unable to be here this morning).

There is a moment when we no longer need a light in the darkness.

Perhaps dawn has come to fill every corner of the room with sunlight. Or, we have grown so familiar with our surroundings that we can find our way without sight. Or, the person we have longed to know now rests by our side, peacefully breathing.

God's goodness has always grown quietly in our midst, like the infant who has grown just out of sight, just beyond our touch.

This final candle represents the moment we see and hold God's promise for ourselves.

God of the Starlight and Moon

1. God of the star - light and moon, mys - ter - y God of the
2. Beau - ty be - yond what we know, shap - ing a world that we
3. Out of the blue you ar - rive, weav - ing our lives with your

mid - night blue skies. Love draw - ing near,
can - not quite see. Form of a child,
con - stant sur - prise. Flick - er - ing flame,

dream-ing new fu - tures: fire of our hearts, a - rise.
reach-ing to greet us: time in e - ter - ni - ty.
spark-ling with prom - ise: God of the star - lit skies.

Text and music: Linnéa K. Clark

OUT OF THE BLUE

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Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

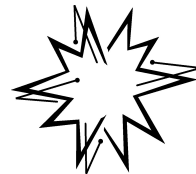
¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce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

The Gospel of the Lord.

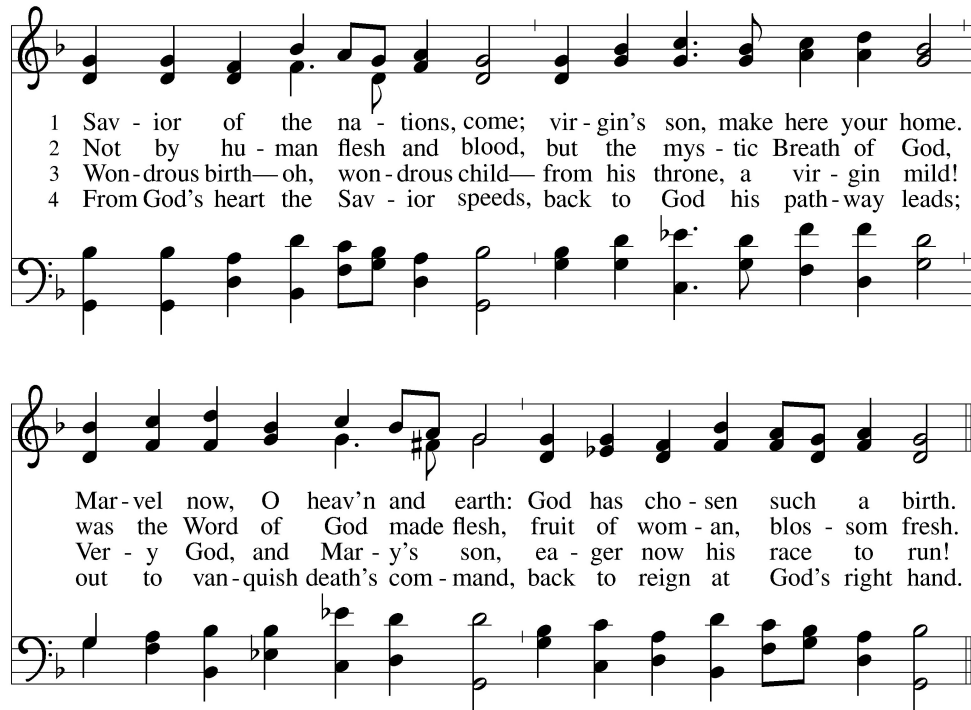
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.



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.

THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

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

**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 whom 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,
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 congregation kneels or sits as is comfortable for the prayers.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Guide Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all those who serve your Church. God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. May the Church continue to point the way to your gracious reign even until you come again. We hold in prayer our siblings in the Church of Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China. And we pray for our synod, especially the congregation of Bethlehem and William and Theodore, rostered ministers. With the Church, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

As the days grow shorter and the air grows cooler, in the beauty of bare branch and nesting animals remind us that life only lays dormant and not forever. May we be found good stewards until you return. With creation, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Your sovereignty knows no end and all the earth is yours: grant wisdom to those who rule, govern, and lead throughout the world. Grant the peace as can only come from you to those places which ache in fear and strife, especially: Australia, the Caribbean, Venezuela, Palestine, Ukraine, and the United States . With the nations, we pray:

Come Lord Jesus.

We look to your coming with healing in your wings for all. In companions and care teams, may those whose names and needs we lift up know that your holy angels have charge over them until the Great Physician appears: _____. With the sick and suffering, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Give hope to those who cannot look with joy to your coming and comfort to those for whom this time does not bring cheer. In us and with you may they find love. With those who wonder and doubt, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

You have flung wide the door and welcomed in your beloved who now rest in you. We give you thanks for Stephen, John, Ken, and all our beloved dead. Until you come in glory, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around 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.

ANTHEM – “Wintry Gloom”

R. Shepard

Please rise in body or spirit as the gifts are presented.

OFFERING HYMN

1st 2

1 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and
4 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and

let your gifts to us be blest. Keep us for - ev - er
let your gifts to us be blest. Come deep with - in our

in your sight, and be our joy, our hearts' de - light.
hearts to dwell, that we may all your good-ness tell.

**may be sung in canon*

Text: traditional table prayer, adapte. Susan Briehl
Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis

OFFERTORY PRAYER

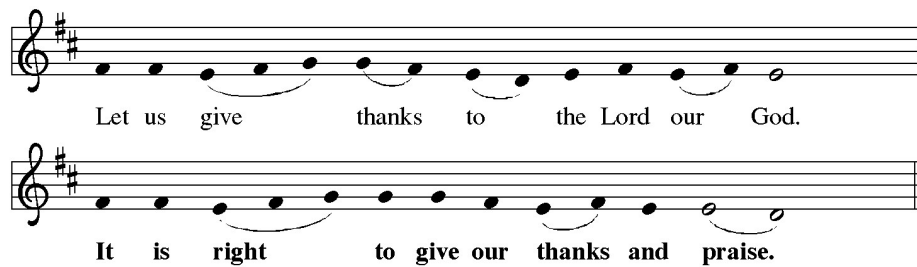
Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

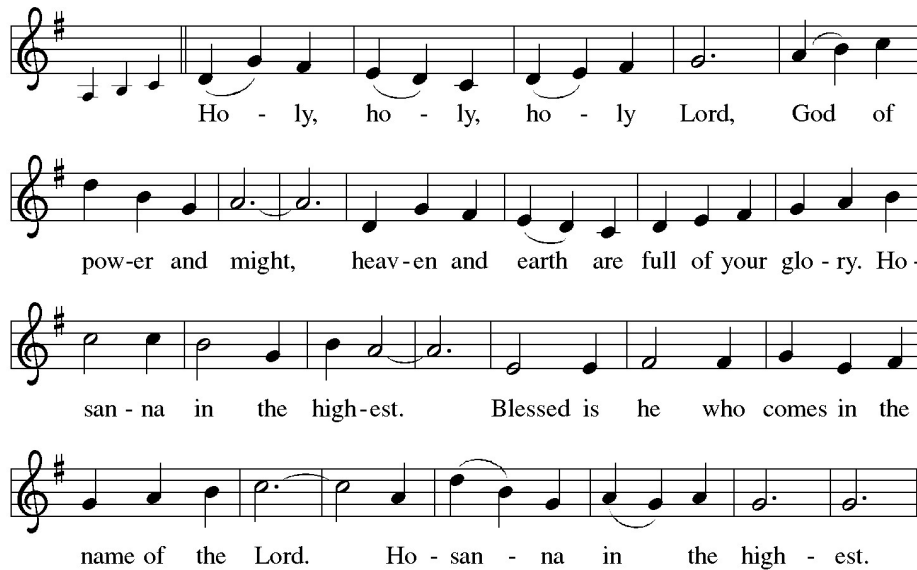
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



THE PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

And let the people cry: **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.*

And let the people cry: **O come and save us.**

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.

And let the people cry: **O come and save us.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever. And let the people pray:

**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.**

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

**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 THE TABLE

Here is the One for whom we wait, he is here Host and Guest, he feeds us with heavenly food, food of angels, himself for you. Come, eat, drink, and be satisfied.

Amen. We come.

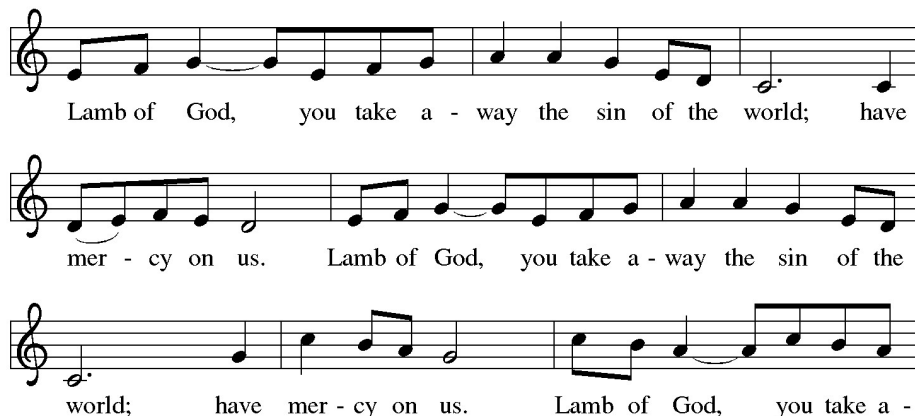
For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! 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. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; 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 260

The King Shall Come

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phat breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

ACS 907

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

Joseph Heard the Troubling News

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM 7.6.7.6 D ("Gentle Mary Laid Her Child")



1. Jo - seph heard the troub - ling news: Ma - ry was ex - pect - ing!
 2. "Go take Ma - ry as your wife; Jo - seph, don't you fear it—
 3. God of love, we too must face times of doubt and trou - ble.



What should he, a just man, do? He sought God's di - rect - ing.
 God has formed a pre - cious life by the Ho - ly Spir - it!
 May we know your dai - ly grace, ev - en when we strug - gle.



Jo - seph thought to send her home— leave her, with - out blam - ing;
 Ma - ry soon will bear a son; you shall name him Je - sus!
 Just as Jo - seph an - swered, "Yes!" with new de - di - ca - tion,



then an an - gel in a dream spoke of joy pro - claim - ing;
 When the pro - phet spoke of him, he said, "God is with us!"
 we re - joice, for we've been blessed by your in - car - na - tion.

Biblical Text: Matthew 1:18-25
 Tune: *Piae Cantones*, 1852. Arr. by Ernest C. MacMillan, 1930
 Text: Copyright © 2010 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

...now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 267

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 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
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “Helmsley”

P. Fey

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Luther Memorial Church and Academy are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people. These lands were ceded by the people of the Six Nations on October 22, 1784 in a treaty ratified by the United States Government in 1785 and never ratified by the people of the Six Nations. We gather in this place indebted to these peoples for their forced generosity. While some peoples were successful in resisting assimilation and genocide, and still live on dwindled homelands now, many were absorbed into other peoples, exiled, or annihilated by the United States government for their land. For those who remain and for the land on which we gather, we give thanks to the Creator and to those who have been custodians of this part of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose

LECTOR – Cathy Beck

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Sue Cappelletty, Kelley Lang

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Christy Adams



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Lois, Max, Kate, Dennis and Jeffrey.

Front lectern flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Rose-Marie Rose's birthday today by her family.

Front lectern flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Ken Snider, by his children and grandchildren.

Today's Events

Family Christmas Pageant will be presented this morning at the 10:30am service. Please join us for this special service.

We're "Stocking the Streets"! Join with our youth as we come together to assist those in our community that are unsheltered. Donations of needed items will be collected through this morning. Sarah Prylinski will then gather these items and distribute them to those in need that she assists on a daily basis. A complete list of items needed and a donation box is located at the Welcome Table. Thank you for helping others.

Offering envelopes for 2026 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, compliments of Burton Quinn Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick yours up for 2026.

LMA Book Fair, located in the library, will be open from 10:00am-12:00 noon this morning. What better gift than a favorite book for Christmas. Stop in and do some shopping.

Worship Matters!

We *finally* sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel this week. Perhaps you grew up singing it every week of Advent; or maybe the first Sunday of Advent. Why do we wait until seemingly the last minute to sing it? The answer is ancient. *Veni Emmanuel* is based on what are known as the "O Antiphons." These antiphons—or refrains like we sing sometimes with the Psalm—are sung before and after the *Magnificat* at the office of Vesper. They are often based on scripture or other writings. However, uniquely in these days leading up to Christmas, the antiphons come as a set known as the "O Antiphons." They are so called because each begins with "O _____" the blank each day being a name for Jesus based on Hebrew Scripture. You can find the complete list either in the hymn *or* in the Eucharistic Prayer we have been using. They are: O Sapientia (Wisdom); O Adonai (Lord); O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse); O Clavis David (Key of David); O Oriens (Dawn); O Rex Genitum (King of Nations); O Emmanuel. Beginning December 17, a different antiphon is used each evening through December 24. Interestingly, if one takes the first letter of each of the antiphons (in Latin), and then writes them backwards, it spells (again in Latin): ERO CRAS. This translates to "tomorrow I come," which is Jesus' reply to us when we sing these antiphons leading up to Christmas Day. Therefore, on this day, we sing each of the antiphons from the 17th until today leaving the rest of the verses for the coming days.

Worship

Interested in becoming a member of Luther Memorial Church? Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office for information or with questions.

LIVESTREAMERS ARE NEEDED! Recently, a few of our services have not been livestreamed and therefore not available to our homebound members. This is due to scheduling conflicts and volunteer availability. We need a robust rotation of livestreamers which involves tending the camera in the choir loft during our 10:30am worship service and our main worship services on feast days (such as Christmas Eve or Ash Wednesday). All ages are welcome to take on this vital leadership role in our communal worship. If you are interested in what this would entail and/or would like to sign up, please speak with Cantor Bryan or Pastor Jay.

Faith Formation for All Ages

Four workshops for confirmation students, 7th grade through 9th grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: **January 11, March 8, May 10**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

Brown Bag Bible (B³) gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. We will meet again on January 8.

Bible After Dark (BAD) meets on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We are using Josh Scott's book *Parables: Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place*. If you would like to order your book from the church office, the cost is \$14. You may also order your own. **YOU** are invited to join us! January's gathering will be on January 13.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Come Caroling! We'll be singing all your favorites! Join in keeping the festivities going on December 26. 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!

OWLS Valentine Luncheon at the Ambassador Conference Center will be held Friday, February 13, 2026 at 12:00 noon. This is a very popular event with many attending. Reservations for this event are appreciated to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or the church office by December 28. This may seem early, but this event fills up quickly.

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Magic Fingers will not meet on December 23. Begin 2026 with us on Tuesday, January 13. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Christmas Outreach

The Mitten Tree, located in the parlor hall, will remain up through January 4 so help us add 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

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.

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.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Dorothy Youngman	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Peyton Thomas	
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Jeff Monroe
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Shirley	Judy
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Joel	Debbie Betit	Haven Schaefer
Katja & family	Carl Larese	Peter Maker	Linda F.
Archer Bardwell, age 3			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

The Nativity of Our Lord
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Main Church

- 5:30 P.M. FESTIVAL PRELUDE
 CANTOR, BRYAN TIMM
- 6:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE
- 10:00 P.M. FESTIVAL PRELUDE
 CANTOR, BRYAN TIMM
- 10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE



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



Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25, 2025
Main Church

- 10:30 A.M. PAJAMA WORSHIP
 ONE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN OUR MAIN CHURCH.
- 11:30 A.M. FELLOWSHIP

Readings and Commemoration This Week

December 22 – *O Rex Gentium* – Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

December 23 – *O Emmanuel* – Luke 1:46b-55; II Samuel 7:18-, 23-29; Galatians 3:6-14

December 24 – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE – Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

December 25 – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAWN – 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 – ST. STEPHEN THE DEACON, PROTOMARTYR – II Chronicles 24:17-22; Psalm 17:1-9, 15; Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60; Matthew 23:34-39 -- *Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.*

December 27 – ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST – Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31; Psalm 116:12-19; I John 1:1-2:2; John 21:20-25 -- *The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.*

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22	11:30am	Pizza with the Principal & Pastor
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23	10:00am 11:30am	Christmas Caroling LMA Dismissal
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	5:30pm 6:00pm 10:00pm 10:30pm	Festival Prelude Christmas Worship Service Festival Prelude Christmas Worship Service LMA & Church Offices Closed
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>		Church Offices Closed
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26	5:00pm	LMA & Church Offices Closed Caroling at the BrewErie
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Diane Banks
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Rob & Ely Cooney
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Linda Graffius

