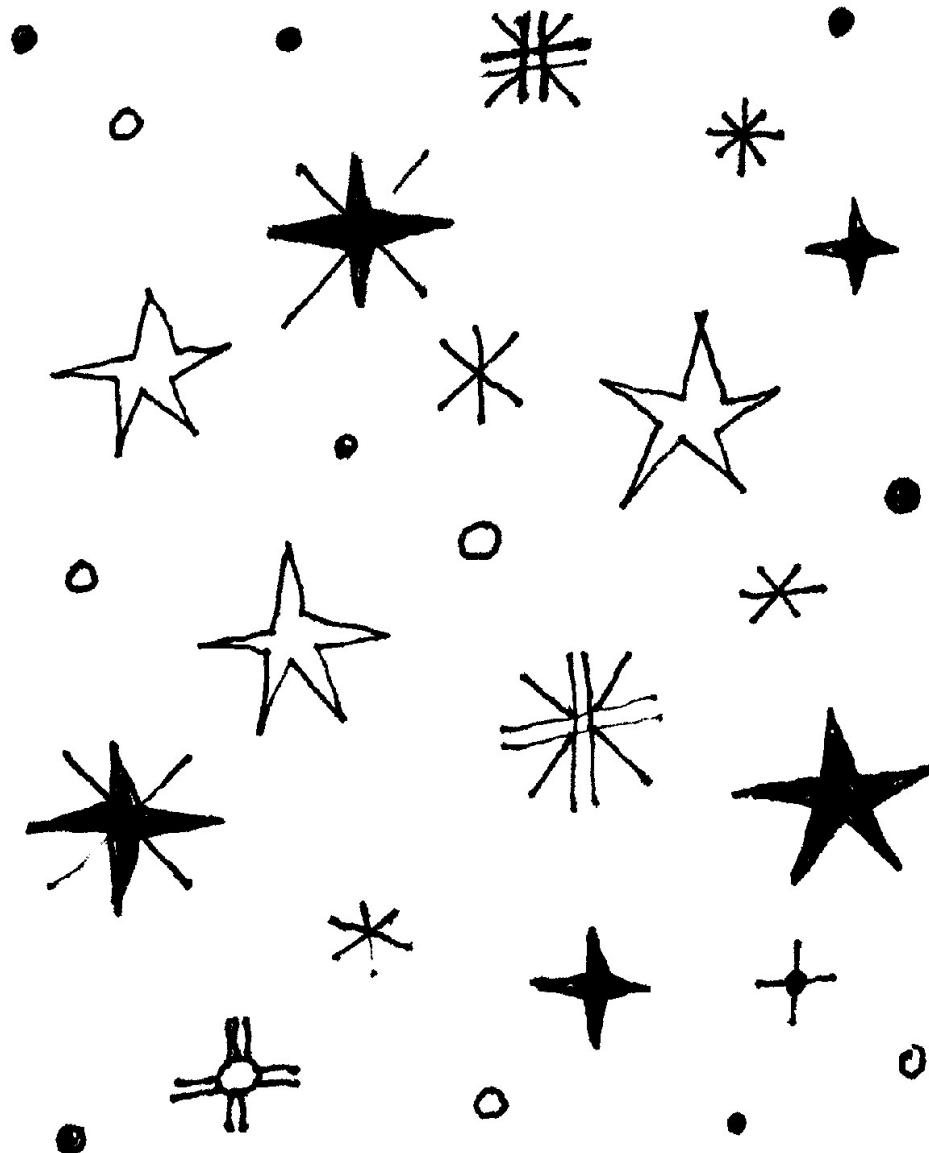


Welcome to  
Luther Memorial Church



1 FEBRUARY 2026  
**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
*Season after the Epiphany*  
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 PRYLINKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

## WELCOME!

COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

+ 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 worshiping 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).

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE – "Salzburg"**

A. Shows

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

### **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**  
**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 314**

**Arise, Your Light Has Come!**



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## GLORIA

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

alone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

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

## BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray: Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon Mike as he proclaims the Word, so that all who receive it will no longer dwell in the shadows, but will have the light of life.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

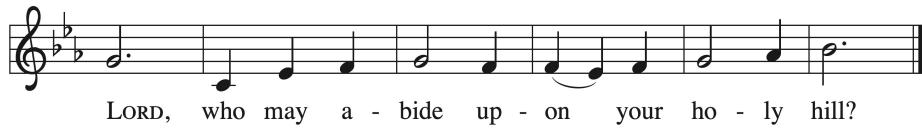
<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against the chosen people, and the Lord will contend with Israel.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

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM: Psalm 15

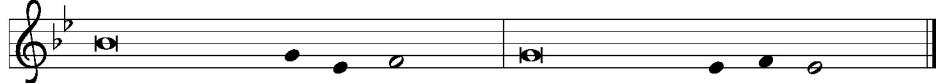
*The antiphon is introduced by the choir and repeated by all and again just once where indicated. The choir and the congregation sing the verses responsively.*

*Antiphon*



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

*Tone*



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

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,

who speak the truth | from their heart; Antiphon

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. Antiphon

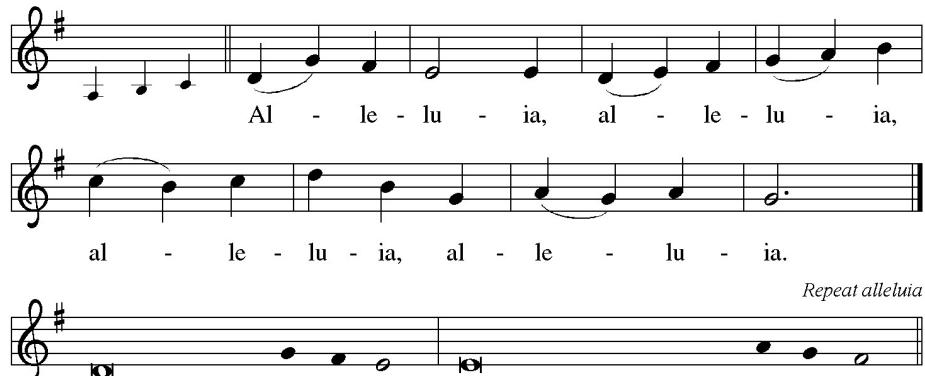
## SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:18-31

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

contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,<sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.*

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.*

#### SERMON

Pastor Jay

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

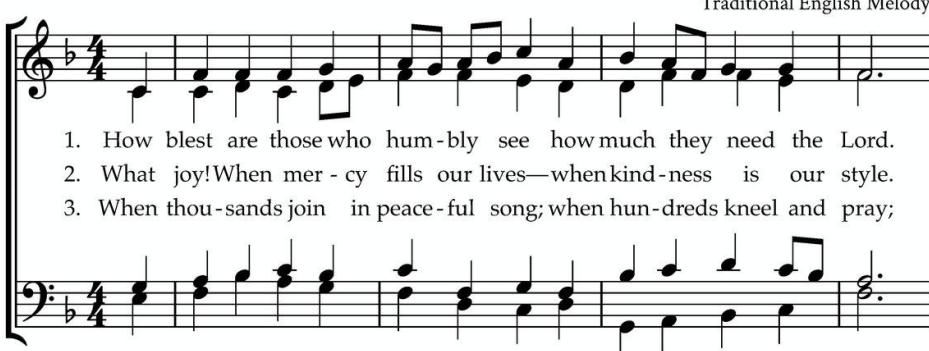
#### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### How Blest Are Those

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

*Forest Green*

Traditional English Melody



1. How blest are those who hum-bly see how much they need the Lord.  
2. What joy! When mer - cy fills our lives—when kind-ness is our style.  
3. When thou-sands join in peace-ful song; when hun-dreds kneel and pray;

How blest are those who deep - ly grieve the suff - ering in this world.  
 What joy! When—pure in heart—we strive to do what is worth - while.  
 When one, a - lone, stands up to wrong; when love be - comes our way;

How blest are those who find God's strength in gen - tle - ness and grace.  
 What joy! When peo - ple work for peace—for jus - tice in this land.  
 When neigh - bors, by the things they do, reach out to those in pain;

How blest are those who long for truth and seek God's lov - ing ways.  
 What joy! When whole com - mu - ni - ties seek good - ness, hand in hand.  
 Lord Je - sus, may we learn a - new the bless - ings of your reign.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. Guide Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay our pastor and all who serve your Church. We pray for Global Refuge, Lutheran Services in America, Bethesda Lutheran Services, Bethany Outreach and all social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Uphold the Church in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia. We pray for our synod, particularly the congregations of Good Hope and St. Peter's and Mark, Julia, and Gail, retired rostered ministers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Grant peace to our streets as can only come from you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING



*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.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING – Cuando el Pobre***Jose Antonio Molivar, Miguel Monzano*

*When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;  
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;  
when the wounded offer others strength and healing: Refrain*

*Refrain*

*We see God, here by our side, walking our way;  
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When compassion gives the suff'ring consolation;  
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us: Refrain*

*When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;  
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: Refrain*

*When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;  
when the nations work to change war into peace;  
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor: Refrain*

Cuando el pobre nada tiene y aún reparte,  
cuando alguien pasa sed y agua nos da,  
cuando el débil a su hermano fortalece:

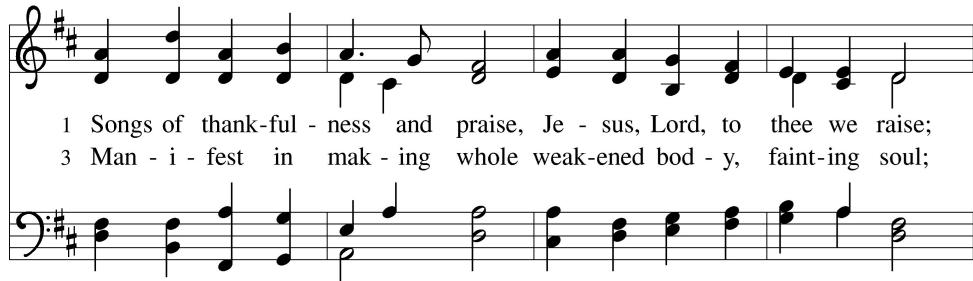
Estríbillo

Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar;  
va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar.

Cuando alguno sufre y logra su consuelo,  
cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar,  
cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee: Estríbillo

Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,  
cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,  
cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos: Estríbillo

Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,  
cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,  
cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño: Estríbillo

**OFFERTORY HYMN****ELW 310****Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-en ed bod - y, faint-ing soul;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:

an - themes be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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.

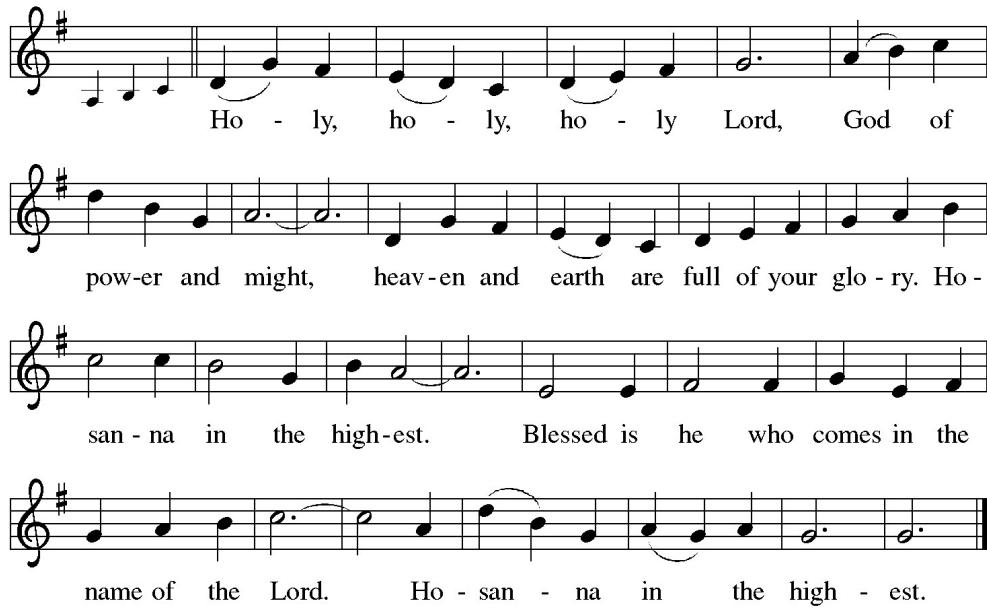
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

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

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God our companion, for you have been everything you call us to be. You have been pure in heart, for you called Jacob to be your people in whom all would find a blessing. You have been merciful, for in your tender mercy you made the dawn from on high to break upon your people, to guide us in the ways of peace. You have been a peacemaker, for in Jesus you broke down the dividing wall of hostility.

In Jesus you comfort those who mourn and replenish those who hunger and thirst. Fill your people now, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that your children may be sanctified by your grace, and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, who:

*In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of glory, you promise that the meek will inherit the earth, and that to the poor in spirit belongs the kingdom of heaven. Visit now those who are persecuted for your righteousness and reviled on account of your name. Shape your church to reflect the image of those you call blessed, and lead all whom you call blessed to find a home in your church, that the church may be full of your prophets, and your prophets may be full of your grace, until all tongues cease and tears are shed no more, in the presence and communion of your Holy Trinity, Light, + Love, and Liberation, ever one God.

**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

Behold what you are; become what you receive: the Body of Christ broken and shared for the world.  
**Amen. We come.**

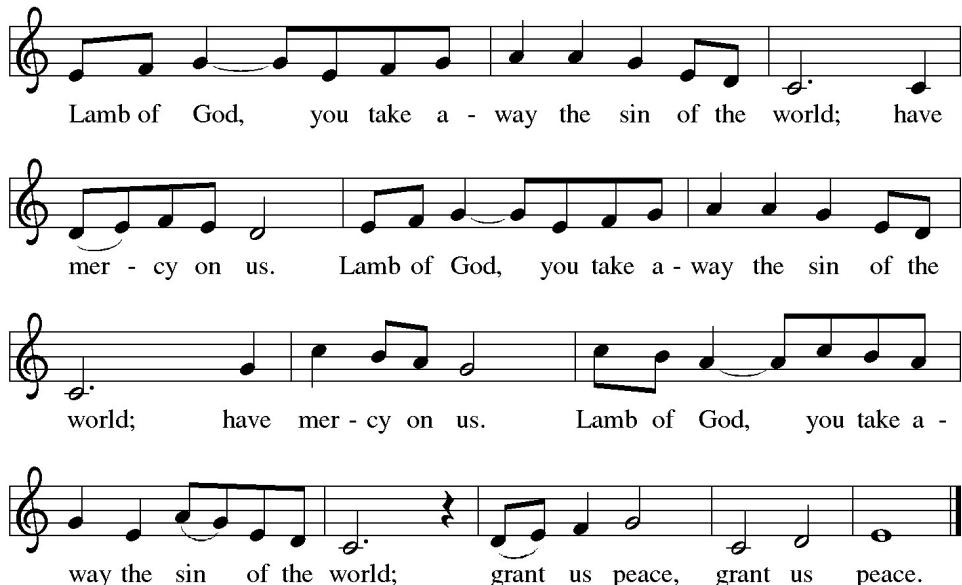
For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

*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



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

## Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light  
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985  
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.  
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

## Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;  
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth  
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.  
 send forth the stor - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Re - joice! Re - joice!

5 At last the march shall end;  
 the wearied ones shall rest;  
 the pilgrims find their home at last,  
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,  
 the Lord whom we adore:  
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.  
 Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

## TABLE BLESSING

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

## God's Work, Our Hands

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:

build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!

rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,

feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - answer your call,

shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.  
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Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987  
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SENDING

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

## BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly.

**Thanks be to God!**

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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* – Pat Bellingham

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* –

*LECTOR* – Mike Hedlund

*USHERS* – Diane & Bob Banks, Cathy Beck, Sharon Burke

*ALTAR GUILD* – Cathie Dugan

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Christy Adams



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my granddaughter, Addie, for her birthday by Donna Sedelmyer.

### Today's Events

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held following the 10:30 service this morning. The Annual Report was emailed and hard copies are available this morning.

Children in PreK-grade 9 will gather on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for some fun activities during this morning's meeting.

**Join us for “Souper” Bowl Tasting** in fellowship hall this morning at 11:30. A variety of scrumptious soups are waiting to be sampled. Stop down for a taste of goodness! Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and delicious.

**Clarinet Adventures** invites you to a performance in our main church this afternoon at 4:00. Clarinet Adventures is an amateur clarinet quartet playing music that ranges from classical to contemporary jazz. A reception will follow in the parlor. Thank you to the Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series for offering this program today.

### Worship Matters!

**Commonwealth Is God's Commandment:** This hymn's refrain includes words meaning peace from other religious traditions. Shanti (Sanskrit) is pronounced “shahn-tee” and is used in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Pax (Latin) is pronounced “pahks.” Shalom (Hebrew) is pronounced “shuh-lohm” and means peace, wholeness. Maslaha (Arabic) is pronounced “muhs-lah-hah” and means reconciliation.

The word share is used in the Bible more than one hundred times. Hospitality is a hallmark of the followers of Jesus. This new hymn text encourages us not only to share and open our doors and tables to both neighbor and stranger, but also to pray for peace in several languages: Latin (pax) and Hebrew (shalom), which may be familiar to Christians, but also Sanskrit (shanti) and Arabic (maslaha). Our common good is indeed holy ground.

## Faith Formation for All Ages

**Join us next Sunday, February 8** for a busy morning:

- **Adult Forum** will meet at 9:15am.
- **Sunday School** for PreK-Grade 5 and LYO for Grades 6-12 will be held at 9:30am.
- **Second Sunday Soirée** will gather in the parlor for fellowship and refreshments at 9:15am.

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** 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. Our next gathering is February 5.

**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. Our discussion on Tuesday, February 3 will be The Wicked Tenant.

**Four workshops** for confirmation students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (in odd months: **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 7<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to each confirmand.

## Opportunities for Fellowship

**Second Sunday Soirée** is held the second Sunday of each month at 9:15am in our parlor. It is a time to visit, catch up with friends, and enjoy some refreshments. Please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship. Our next Soirée is February 8.

**A Valentine luncheon** for our OWLS will be held Friday, February 13 from 11:00am – 1:00pm in our church parlor. All are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share and spend a lovely time together celebrating Valentine's Day. Reservations for the previously scheduled luncheon at the Ambassador were full. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476 by February 8 if you plan to attend.

**LIA**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, February 10 from 5:30-7:00pm for dinner and planning of our upcoming service projects. All youth in grades 5-12 and their family are invited to join in.

**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, February 10 and 24, from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**Lutherlyn summer camp** registration begins today, February 1. Various camps are available throughout the summer for families and youth of all ages.

## Lenten Season

**Ash Wednesday** services will be held in the main church on February 18 at 12:00 noon and 7:00pm. Pastor Jay will be offering Individual Confession and Forgiveness on Ash Wednesday from 7:00-8:00am, 10:00-11:30am, and from 4:30-6:30pm in the Luther Chapel.

**Our study series** for our midweek gatherings during Lent will be ***understanding Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All.*** During our series we will look at the process of Social Statements in the ELCA, how they come to be and how they are ratified, and what authority they carry within our church.

- Afternoon gathering: 12:00 noon – Worship, 12:30pm – Luncheon, followed by 1:00pm Study Series

**Wednesday evenings** at 6:00pm in Lent we will gather on the fifth floor for Prayer Around the Cross under the theme of “For God So Loved the World”. This brief service (about 30 minutes) is an opportunity for scripture, song, and silence; for prayer and the lighting of candles; and for contemplation of the saving deed of Jesus on the cross “for God so loved the *world*.” The format and much of the music for this service comes from Holden Village—the same source as our popular Holden Evening Prayer.

**Lenten Luncheons** will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 25-March 25 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. Enjoy a home-cooked meal for only \$10. Macaroni & Cheese will be served at the first Lenten luncheon on February 25. If you would like to help in any way please contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

**Lenten Kick-off** will be held Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30pm. Bring your family and join us for dinner, a short Bible lesson and a surprise craft. The main dish will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### 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 —

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Dorothy Youngman	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Jeanne Gaber	Loretta Deeds
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Justin	Linda F.	Jeff Monroe
Gail Lesuer	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Shirley	Judy
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	Haven Schaefer
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Carl Larese	Richard Come	Carol McFalls
<b>Grief:</b>			
Judith Steff family	Joyce Zwilling family	Treiber family	
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

### Readings and Commemoration This Week

**February 2 – The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple** – Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

**February 3 – Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden** – Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6

**February 4** – Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26

**February 5 – The Martyrs of Japan** – Psalm 112:1-10; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; I John 5:1-5

**February 6** – Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18

**February 7** – Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8

## Our Neighbors' Place



Our Neighbors' Place is a seasonal overflow shelter that ensures everyone has a warm, safe place to sleep during Erie's winter season.

A community effort, ONP used to operate on a rotating basis among several downtown Erie churches during the winter season. This season ONP will take place at the Community Resilience Center, a single site location provided by Erie County. Guests are provided food, the opportunity to shower, a place to sleep, chaplain services, hygiene necessities, foot care, and are introduced to available homeless services.

### Where and When:

- Community Resilience Center ([450 E 16<sup>th</sup> St. Erie, PA 16503](https://www.google.com/maps/place/450+e+16th+st+erie+pa+16503))
- This program is seasonal and will open in November 2025 - April 2026.
- **Volunteers arrive at 6:30pm and leave at 11:00pm.**

### Who We Serve:

- Any homeless man or woman without shelter.

### How We Serve:

- Providing a warm overnight space to sleep.
- Supplying one meal to each guest.
- Connection to chaplain services.
- Giving guests an opportunity to shower.
- Bringing in community partners to provide foot care.
- Connection to other homeless resources in Erie County.

### How You Can Help:

- **Luther Memorial Church will be volunteering at ONP the week of Wednesday, February 11 – Tuesday, February 17. Your help is needed for 1 night, 2 nights, or as many as you are able. Volunteers hand out towels for showers, offer coffee, hand out meals, provide t-shirts and socks for those that are in need of these items. Meals are pre-made and ready to serve.**

Six volunteers are needed for each evening so we ask that you really give some thought to helping. The giving of your time will be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, you may contact Norma in the church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or Sarah Prylinski at 882-1695. Thank you.

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2</b>	2:30pm 3:30pm	LMA Play Practice Prayer Group
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3</b>	10:00am 1:00pm 2:00pm 6:30pm	Pericope W/ELCA Board Meeting W/ELCA Circle Meeting Bible After Dark (Calamari's)
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4</b>		
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5</b>	12:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:45pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group LMA Play Practice Handbells Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6</b>		
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7</b>	10:00am	Quilting

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

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

**Second Sunday Soirée** will be held in the parlor at 9:15am.

**Adult Forum** will gather at 9:15am.

**Sunday School** for PreK-Grade 5 and LYO for grades 6-12 will meet at 9:30am.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026**  
**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Pastor Jay, Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Skip MacInnes, Mary Mumford
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Linda Graffius

