

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



5 DECEMBER 2021
The Second Sunday in Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. ROY WASHILL

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL

Academy Administrator

5 DECEMBER 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Three • 8:15 & 10:30



LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

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

PRELUDE – “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Johann Pachelbel, Georg Böhm

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lutheran Book of Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

☞ **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.



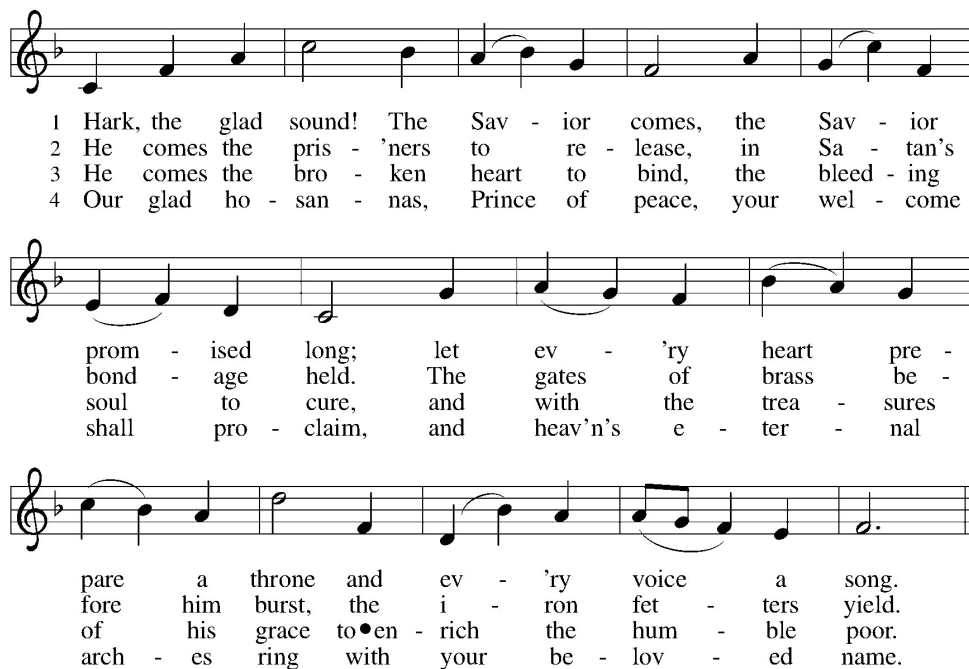
- P** God for whom we wait,
C in the presence of one another,
 we confess our sin before you.
 We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
 We falter in our call to tend your creation.
 We find our sense of self in material wealth.
 We fear those different from ourselves.
 We forget that we are your children
 and turn away from your love.
 Forgive us, Blessed One,
 and assure us again of your saving grace.
 Amen.
- P** God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
 Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
 ☩ your sins are forgiven.
 You are children of the Most High,
 inheritors of the eternal promise,
 and recipients of divine mercy.
 God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
- C** Amen.

The author of this hymn text was a Nonconformist minister in 18th century England, where he also ran an academy for those preparing for the Nonconformist ministry. A later editor attributed the hymn's message to Luke 4:18-19. The melody was composed by an 18th century English churchman of considerable accomplishment.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

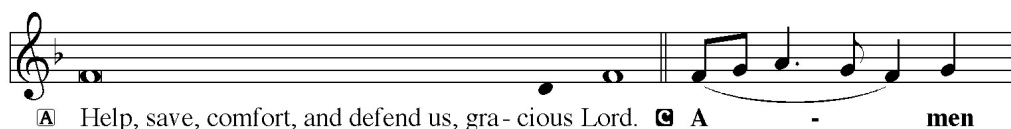
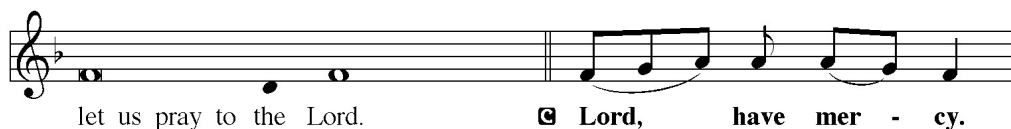
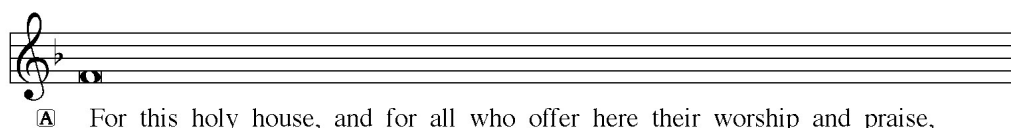
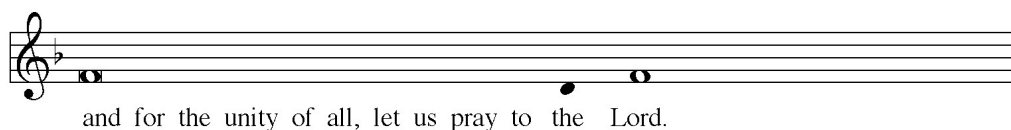
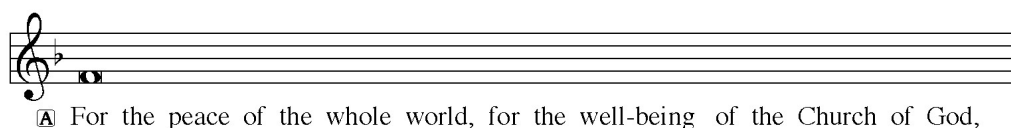
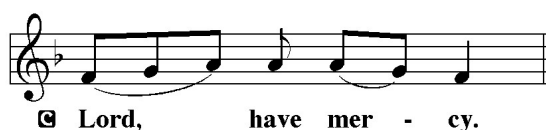
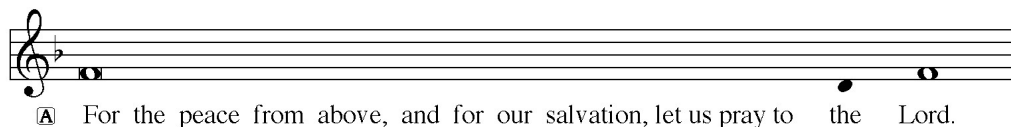
Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:14

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE Luke 17:13



PRAYER OF THE DAY *Ruth 2:4*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES – 10:30 am Service

TUCKER MICHAEL GALLOWAY
NOAH ALEXANDER MONTROY

CECILIA ROSE MONTROY
AUSTIN DOUGLAS-JAMES ROMBA

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.



8:15 The second candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by David Morphy; prayer by Jean McMillin.

10:30 The second candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Judy Crissman; prayer by Cecilia Montroy.

ELW 715

Christ, Be Our Light

2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for

hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone

has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.





Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79 *(sung in alternation) (8:15 am Service)*



⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,

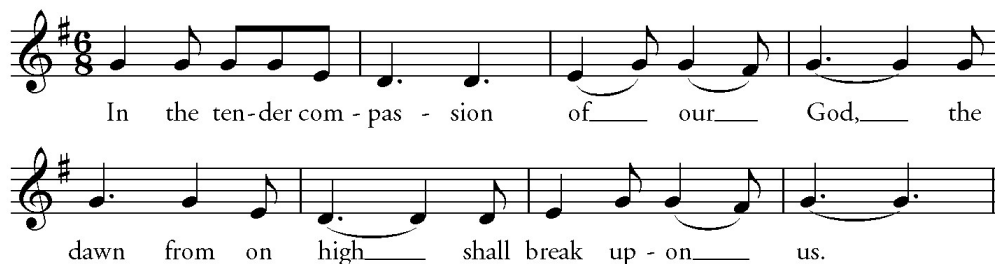
**free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life.**



⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹pare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge ¹of salvation**
by the forgiveness ¹of their sins.
⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹of our God
 the dawn from on high shall ¹break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ¹ow of death,**
and to guide our feet into the ¹way of peace.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79 (10:30 am Service)

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



⁶⁸ Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel;
 he has come to his people and set them free.
⁶⁹ He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
 born of the house of his servant David.
⁷⁰ Through his holy prophets, he promised of old
⁷¹ that he would save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all who hate us,
⁷² He promised to show mercy to our fathers,
 and to remember his holy covenant. **R**
⁷³ This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
⁷⁴ free to worship him without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life.
⁷⁶ You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”
As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political
and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P The Gospel of the Lord

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Moran

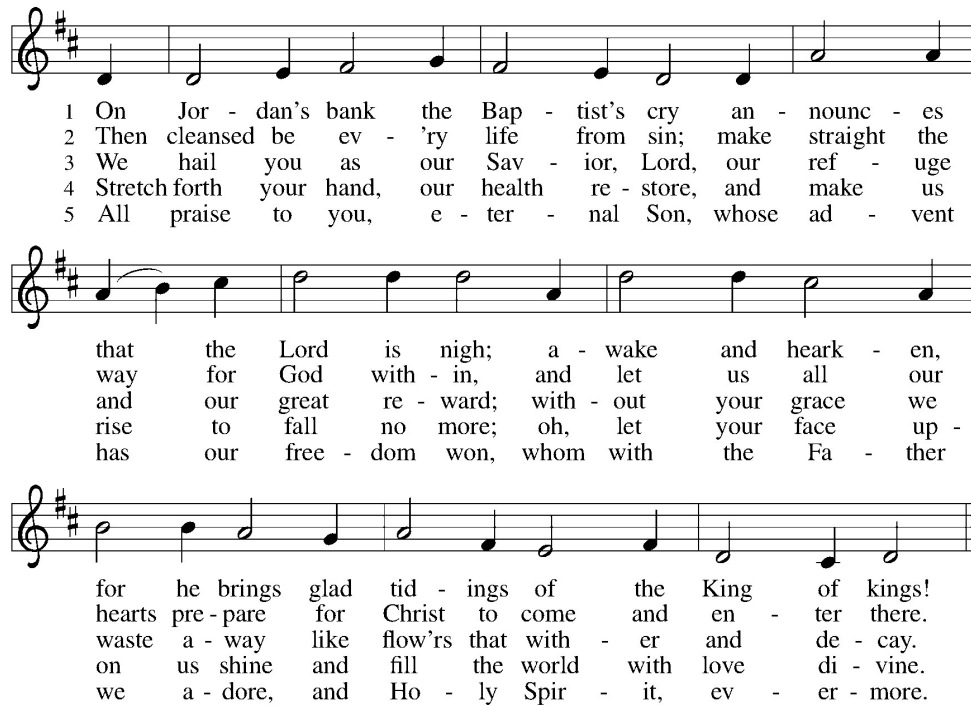
Please stand as you are able.

*This hymn, originally written in Latin in 17th century France, was translated by a 19th century scholar.
The earliest source of the melody is a 15th century manuscript, but the adaptation here
is by an accomplished 16th century scholar and organist.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 249

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

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



For us and for our salvation

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

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

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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

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

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS *1 Timothy 2:1*

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

A brief silence.

A You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



A We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered especially Robert Peterson, Kevin Kraut, Jane Heidt and Wayne Heidt. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.** *Romans 16:16*

Please be seated.

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

VOLUNTARY – “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” (8:15 am Service)

Raymond H. Haan

ANTHEM – “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” (10:30 am Service)

ELW 256

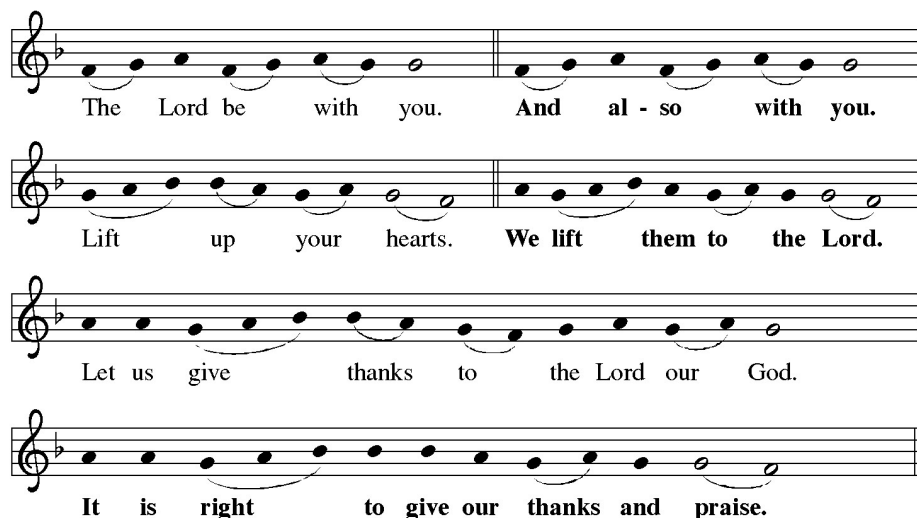
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OFFERING PRAYER

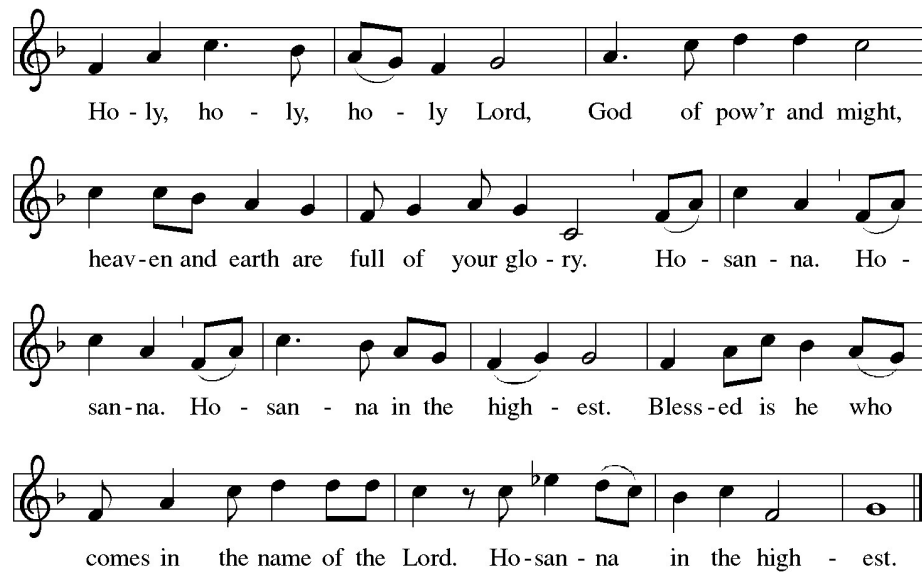
A God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Matthew 21:9*



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: ►



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
 our Salvation and our Hope,
 we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
 When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
 you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
 your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
 and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

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

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

☐ Amen.



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

C **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen. *Matthew 6:9*

AGNUS DEI

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

C Amen.

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

The congregation is seated.

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

Please come forward by the center aisle and maintain appropriate physical distancing.

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

Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray.

Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

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

COMMUNION John 1:29

A pastor of the ELCA, Rev. Susan Briehl was ordained in 1981. She has also been a program associate at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IL. Rev. Briehl holds both a B.A. and an M.A. in English from Washington State University and a Master of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. She has written numerous books, hymns, and worship songs.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 469

By Your Hand You Feed Your People



- 1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
- 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis-dom sat - is - fy our deep-est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod-y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er-flow-ing, life out - poured,



giv-en as a liv-ing to - ken of your world re-deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

C Amen.

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

BLESSING

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

C Amen.


Care Ministers please come forward to the altar during the singing of the Sending Hymn.

Originally a Latin hymn and dating from the fifth century, this text from the tenth century was to be sung at the sunrise service (Lauds) from the First Sunday in Advent until Christmas Eve. The English translation is by one of the most distinguished of hymn translators. The melody is the work of an English organist, church musician and music editor who composed popular hymn tunes, including "Eventide", used for the hymn "Abide with Me".

SENDING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!


ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

SENDING OF COMMUNION CARE MINISTERS

P Gracious God,
whose mercy endures from generation to generation:
As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son,
bless those who go forth and share your word and sacrament
with our sisters and brothers who are sick and homebound
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.
C Amen.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Christ is near.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Chorale & Fughetta on 'Comfort, Comfort Now My People'"

Alfred Fedak

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING – Pastor Brian Moran

ACOLYTES – John, Natalie, Jack & Tessa Bartlett (10:30 am)

ASSISTING MINISTERS – Rob Benacci (8:15 am)

Stan Rose (10:30 am)

LECTOR – Loretta Deeds (10:30 am)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Martha & Tom Klomp (10:30 am)



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my sister, Jane Heidt, and my dad, Wayne Heidt, by Ann Gary Flick

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Robert Peterson who died Friday, November 26, 2021. Our prayers are with his daughter, Susan Long, and family.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Kevin Kraut who died Friday, November 26, 2021. Our prayers are with his brother and wife, Ken and Kathy Kraut, and family.

Rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Kennedy Elise Duran born on November 30, 2021. Congratulations to mom and dad, Angela and Andres, and to brothers, Caiden Snider, Adam and Evan Duran.

Bishop Lozano met with our Call Committee on Wednesday, December 1. Those serving on our Call Committee were approved by church council at our November meeting:

Rob Benacci
Tom Klomp

Emma Chaffee
Marilyn Rositer

Jonathan Gaber
Carol Schaal

Eric Hedlund
Michael Snider

Today's Events

Offering envelopes for 2022 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

Orders will be accepted through this morning for Gahr's Hamloaf. Locally owned in Titusville, this will make the perfect Christmas dinner. Order forms are available in the church office and at the hospitality tables. Your orders may be dropped off in the church office or with Beth Keller. Thank you.

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

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

Christian Education

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

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – first Sunday of the month (**December 5**)
- Grades 1-3 – second Sunday of the month (December 12)
- LYO – third Sunday of the month (December 19)
- Grades 4-6 – fourth Sunday of the month (January 23; will not gather in December)

Worship

ReCharge contemporary service will be held Sunday, December 12. All are invited to take part in festive Christmas activities and delicious meal at 4:00pm. Our Christmas worship will be held from 5:00-6:00pm.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group will have you feeling very jolly when you join us for those knitting and yarn projects. We hope to see you on Tuesday, December 14! Join us from 10:00am – 12:00 noon the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month to get creative. Masks are worn and safe distancing protocol is followed. Please contact Norma in the church office or Jan MacInnes with any questions, 454-0106.

OWLS Christmas gathering will be held Wednesday, December 15 from 11:30am – 1:30pm in our church parlor. Come prepared for lots of fun and a festive luncheon. In lieu of our White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a \$5 contribution which will be used to purchase items for those in need. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or the church office by Wednesday, December 8.

Outreach

"Kids for Kids" annual collection will take place through this morning. All money collected will be used to help families in need during the Christmas season. Monetary donations are appreciated and may be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plates at the church doors. "Kids for Kids" baggies are also located at the welcome tables. Thank you.

Family Christmas dinner will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18th and Walnut Street. This will be the 23rd year that St. Matthew's began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need, and we now share in that Christmas spirit. Please volunteer to help by signing the sheet on the table under the video screen or contact the church office. Approximately 120 people attend this dinner. Thank you.

New adult men's underwear and long johns will be collected through December 19. All items will be distributed to local shelters. Items may be placed in the box marked "Shelter Collection" located in the parlor hall. Thank you.

Youth Outreach

All youth are encouraged to join us on Saturday, December 18 from 8:30-11:30am at Bethany Outreach Center to help with food distribution. C'mon down and help share some Christmas joy. Please contact Sarah Prylinski at 882-1695 if you will be attending. Dress warmly, and remember, this project will earn service hours for you.

Christmas Worship

Blue Christmas service will be held Wednesday, December 8 at 6:00pm in the main church. Experiencing the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, or the loss of job can be very difficult and Christmas is a time when reassurance is needed. In response to our need of hope, we invite you to join us for the Blue Christmas service; a time of comfort, warmth and love.

St. Lucia Festival will be celebrated during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 12. Our worship service will include traditional songs of the St. Lucia Festival. We are looking forward to our children taking part in our service and celebration of St. Lucia. A rehearsal for our children will be held this morning at 11:30 in the main church.

Christmas Preparations

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

Luther Memorial Church and Luther Memorial Academy invite you to enjoy a Christmas Wonderland Drive-thru in our parking lot during the evening on Wednesday, December 15 from 6:30-7:30pm. We welcome everyone to stop down, enjoy all the decorations and get that wonderful Christmas feeling. If you have extra lights or large outdoor decorations you would like to donate for our Wonderland, please drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

In Case of Emergency

In case of an emergency please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

Scheduling Ahead

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

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

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

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6	6:00pm	LMA Legos
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7	9:00am 4:00pm	LMA Christmas Fair W/ELCA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8	9:00am 6:00pm	LMA Christmas Fair Blue Christmas Service
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9	9:00am 6:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	LMA Christmas Fair Handbells LMA Legos Choir
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10	7:30pm	Club 50
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Pastor Karen Lundwall will preach at the 8:15am and 10:30am services in the main church. The 10:30am service is live streamed on our church YouTube Channel; go to YouTube, in the search bar type in “Luther Memorial Church, Erie, PA”. Subscribe to the channel.

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

Children’s Church for Grades 1st – 3rd will be held from 9:30-10:15am.

ReCharge contemporary service will be held from 4:00 – 6:00pm.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

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

Friends and Family:

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

Grief:

Ken Kraut family	Al Latronica family	Robert Peterson family	Betit family
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Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson
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