

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



5 MARCH 2023  
The Second Sunday in Lent  
10:30 am

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

# 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

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

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

BETH KELLER

*Youth and Family Ministry*

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

BECKY CAREY

*Interim Academy Administrator*



**5 MARCH 2023**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Ten • 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 – “Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”**

“God Loved the World”

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”

Jeffrey Blersch, John A. Behnke

Wilbur Held, C. Hubert H. Parry

Anonymous, Charles Ore, David Schack

### 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

**INTROIT – “Hide Me Under the Shadow of Thy Wings”**

John E. West

*Hide me under the shadow of Thy wings,  
O Lord, and give Thine angels charge concerning me:  
That I may lie down in peace, and take my rest,  
for it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me to dwell in safety.*

*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 journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

☞ Amen.



- ☐ Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

- ☐ Holy God,

- ☑ **we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

- ☐ Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,

so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✠ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

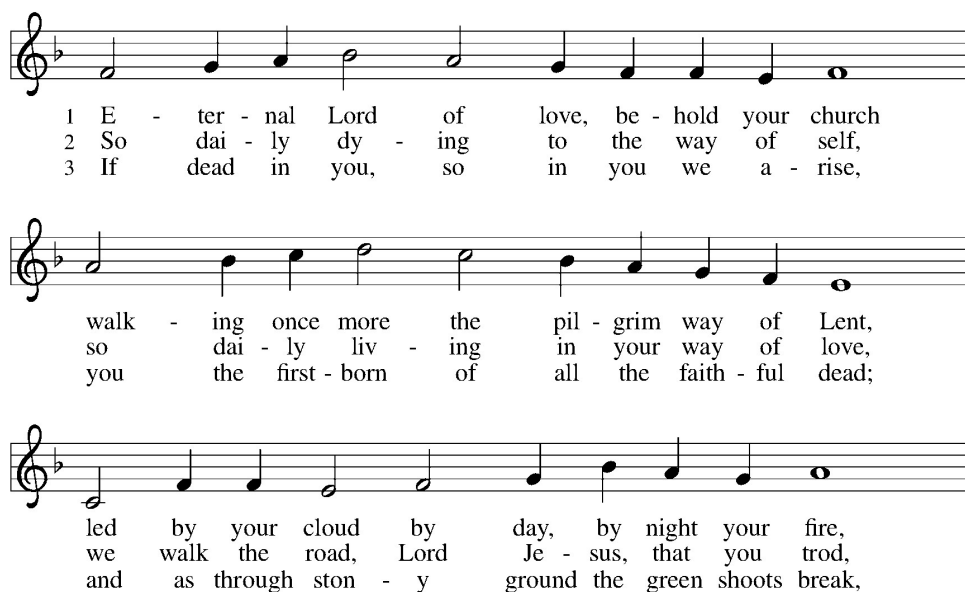
- ☑ **Amen.**

*When the Episcopal church asked for new hymns for Lent, a Canadian university professor was one respondent. His hymn, based on I Corinthians 15 and Romans 6, is full of baptismal imagery. The tune was written for the Genevan Psalter, and has an unusual meter with five lines of 10 syllables each.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 321

### Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church




1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,


walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,





moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003  
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551  
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

## GREETING

- [L] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
 [C] And also with you.

## KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- [L] Let us pray.  
 [C] O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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.*



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

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

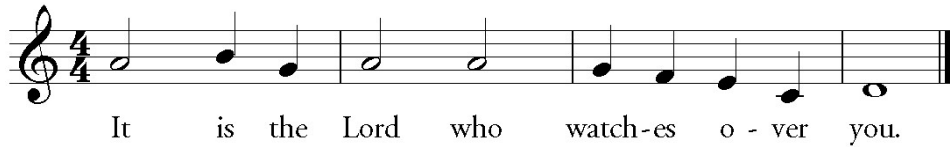
<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**© Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 121

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



<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>Behold he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

<sup>5</sup>the Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night. **R**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore. **R**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

<sup>1</sup>What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. <sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also ►

to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom Abraham believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject.  
Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish people. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the dominion of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to Jesus, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the dominion of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to Jesus, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son-of-Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Michael Snider

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Text for this hymn is of uncertain origin, generally held to be from 18<sup>th</sup> century Germany. Its translator was a distinguished hymnologist who translated many hymns that appeared in several Lutheran hymnals. The tune was adapted from one published around 1780 by a church organist of the day.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 323

### God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**C** 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.

## THE PRAYERS

**A** Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Uplift all those around the world who struggle with illness, warfare, and the effects of natural disasters, reminding them that you are their stronghold. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** We give you thanks for the leading of the Holy Spirit in the call process and for the hard work of our Call Committee and our Church Council. Guide Pastor Mitchell as he leaves Philadelphia to begin his ministry with us. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** O God, you so love your saints, especially J. David Mumford. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**L** We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

**L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*Please be seated.*

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

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

*“Jesus said, truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”*

*Luke 21: 3-4*



*Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord,  
And cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure;  
For we confess our sins unto thee,  
And hide not our unrighteousness.  
For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*This brief song may be especially fitting as an invitation to communion or as the assembly communes.  
It originated as part of a Music that Makes Community workshop held in Park Ridge, Illinois, in 2011.  
At these events participants are given creative space to compose "paperless music," songs that can be learned  
without the aid of books or printed material. After being sung around the church,  
it became better known through the publication *Singing in Community* (Augsburg Fortress, 2017).*

## OFFERTORY

ELW 481

## Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music.

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C** Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION PRAYER

- D** Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion,  
we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and  
of the love shown us in the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that  
"in the night in which he was betrayed,  
he took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

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

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit.  
Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing,  
that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

- C** Amen.

- D** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

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

- D** As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

🔊 Amen.

☐ Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

*The congregation is seated.*

## SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

*O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.* Lutheran Book of Worship

## COMMUNION

*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.*

*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 in the center of the tray.*

*Gluten-free wafers are on the stand in front of the baptismal font.*

*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.*

*When the author of this hymn became an invalid and grew depressed over her inability to lead a more active life, she wrote this hymn, which helped both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth. It has ever since served as a source of solace for many. The tune, from the pen of a well-known composer, was written for a different hymn, but the composer later adapted it to the current text.*

## HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 592

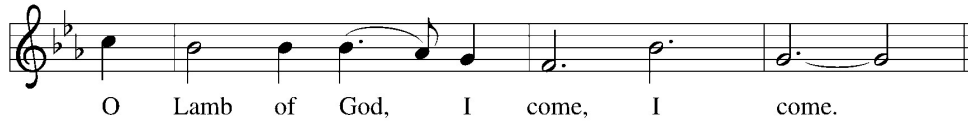
### Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
☑ **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.  
☑ **Amen.**

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

## BLESSING

- ☐ God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.  
☑ **Amen.**

*This hymn was translated to English by George Taylor Rygh from an original work written by Danish poet and clergyman, Thomas Hansen Kingo. A short hymn about baptism and Christian unity in diversity, it is sometimes described as a foundational Lutheran hymn.*

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 442

### All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized shall see the Lord's sal-  
2 With one ac-cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho-ly



va-tion; bap-tized in-to the death of Christ, they are a  
Spir-it; help us in our in-fir-mi-ty through Je-sus'





new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they will stand a -  
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by



mong the glo - rious heav'n - ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1943, alt.  
Music: ES IST DAS HEIL, *Etlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

**A** Go in peace. Serve in love.

**G** Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

Wilhelm Rudnick, Michael Burkhardt

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*PREACHING* – Michael Snider

*GREETER* – Pat Bellingham

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Lois Smith

*LAY DISTRIBUTOR* – Jan MacInnes

*LECTOR* – Jane Moran

*USHERS* – Diana Alvaro, Sue Cappelletty, Dave Griswold, Tom Klomp

*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of cherished loved ones by the Hubbard family.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Pastor Mumford who died Wednesday, March 1. A memorial service will be held at Luther Memorial Church at a date to be announced.

### Today's Events

**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.

**First Holy Communion** classes will continue each Sunday through April 2. Classes, led by Ann Flick and Beth Keller, are held from 9:30-10:15am. All children in grades 3 and up are invited to take part in these classes. If your son and/or daughter have not had the opportunity to attend First Communion class, we invite them to attend. Children will receive First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 7:00pm service.

## **Worship**

**The Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

## **Christian Education**

**Children's Church** classes for PreK – grade 6 meet the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 – 10:15. Our next gathering will be Sunday, March 12. Our youth in grades 7 - 12 will continue meeting on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30am.

**Teachers** and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

## **Lenten Opportunities**

**Wednesday Lenten** services will be held at 12:05pm March 1 – March 29. Scripture readings will be full of back-and-forth conversations with God. These conversations are filled with questions. People use questions to interrogate or to express their confusion or doubt. Questions express the longings of the heart and the puzzles of the mind. A question shows the distance between me and you. A question can also bring us closer. Let these questions—those others ask of God, and those you have carried yourself—draw you closer into conversation with God and with others this Lenten season.

March 1	Questions that Divide, Questions that Bind
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Simple Questions</b>
March 15	Questions for the Curious
March 22	Questions that Change, Questions that Change You
March 29	Questions that Kick

**Lenten luncheons** are offered in fellowship hall at 12:35pm, immediately following worship, each Wednesday in Lent; March 1 – March 29. All are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal; cost for each lunch is \$8. The main dish on March 8 will be pulled pork sandwiches.

**Walk to Emmaus** will bring our families together each Wednesday evening throughout Lent. We gather at 5:30pm in fellowship hall for our meal. The main dish will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish to share. If you would like to assist by providing the main dish, please contact Norma in our church office. We will gather in the main church for a Bible lesson and family activity from 6:15 – 7:00pm. Throughout the Lenten season we also encourage everyone to get on the road and do that “Walk” to Emmaus. By taking care of our bodies (His temple) we glorify God and are better equipped for what he has planned for us. So put on those comfy shoes and take a few extra steps during the week.

## **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Spring Bingo** will be held Sunday, March 26 in our fellowship hall. Doors will open at 12:00 noon and the fun begins at 12:30pm. The cost of \$25 includes 8 games of play and with cash and prizes, tip boards and raffles. Small snacks will be available for purchase. This event will benefit our youth programming.

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. Join friends for a wonderful morning of knitting, crocheting and laughter on March 14 and March 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

## **Youth Event**

**Calling youth** in grades 6 and up! Bring a friend and join us for Pizza & Movie Night on Friday, March 24 from 5:30 – 8:30pm. Let's munch on pizza while watching “Jesus Christ Superstar Live” with John Legend. Please RSVP to Sarah at 814-882-1695 or the church office.

### Easter Orders

**Easter flowers** may be ordered through Sunday, March 26. Flower order forms are in the March newsletter and at the hospitality tables.

**Hamloaf orders** will be accepted through Sunday, March 26 and available for pick up on Sunday, April 2. For a delicious and easy Easter dinner, a hamloaf would be perfect. The cost is \$5/1 lb. and \$8/2 lbs. Proceeds benefit our youth. Order forms are located at the hospitality tables and in the church office.

### Luther Memorial Academy

**LMA's Lego League** team has been invited to a FIRST Lego League tournament at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts June 9-11, 2023. This is a huge opportunity for the LMA team and they are proud to represent LMA & Erie County. To make this happen for our team, it is necessary to raise \$845 per student, which means a total of \$5,915 for the team. If you are aware of an area business that would like to sponsor our Lego League, please share the information with the school office. Every little bit helps & all donations and sponsorships can be mailed or dropped off in the school office. Be sure to make checks payable to LMA & earmark them for Lego League. Thank you.

### Items to Note

**Parking** in the lot across from 11<sup>th</sup> Street is not permitted. Please do not park in this area as your car will be towed. Thank you.

**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.

**Daylight Saving Time** begins Sunday, March 12. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one (1) hour on Saturday evening. You don't want to be late for church!

### — PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Mary Laver	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	Mike Daniels
Paul Meucci	Dave Birkner	Torsten Carlson	
Friends and Family:			
Dennis & Lori Sander	Elayne Morphy	June Madurski	Edie Jackman
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Branden Jones
Karen Dahlstrand	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Elise VanDamia	Gary Flick	Meghan Kessler
Austin Coverdale	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Baby Archer Bardwell	Curtis Krick	Tom Braendel	Susan Brooks
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Debbie	Caitlyn Kessler	Michele Seifert
Grief:			
Bill Youngman family	J. David Mumford family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, MARCH 6**

<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 7</b>	12:00pm 3:00pm	Deborah Circle W/ELCA
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<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8</b>	12:05pm 12:35pm 5:30pm	Worship Lenten Luncheon Walk to Emmaus
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<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 9</b>	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
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<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 10</b>	11:00am 6:30pm	Grade 8 Etiquette Luncheon Club 50
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<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 11</b>	10:00am	Quilting Meeting
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### SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**Pastor Jay Mitchell** will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

**Children's Church** for PreK – Grade 6 will meet at 9:30am.

**First Holy Communion** class will gather at 9:30am.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Lois Smith
	10:30am	Emma Chaffee
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Dave Griswold
Counters	10:30am	Gina Snider, Liz Stroup