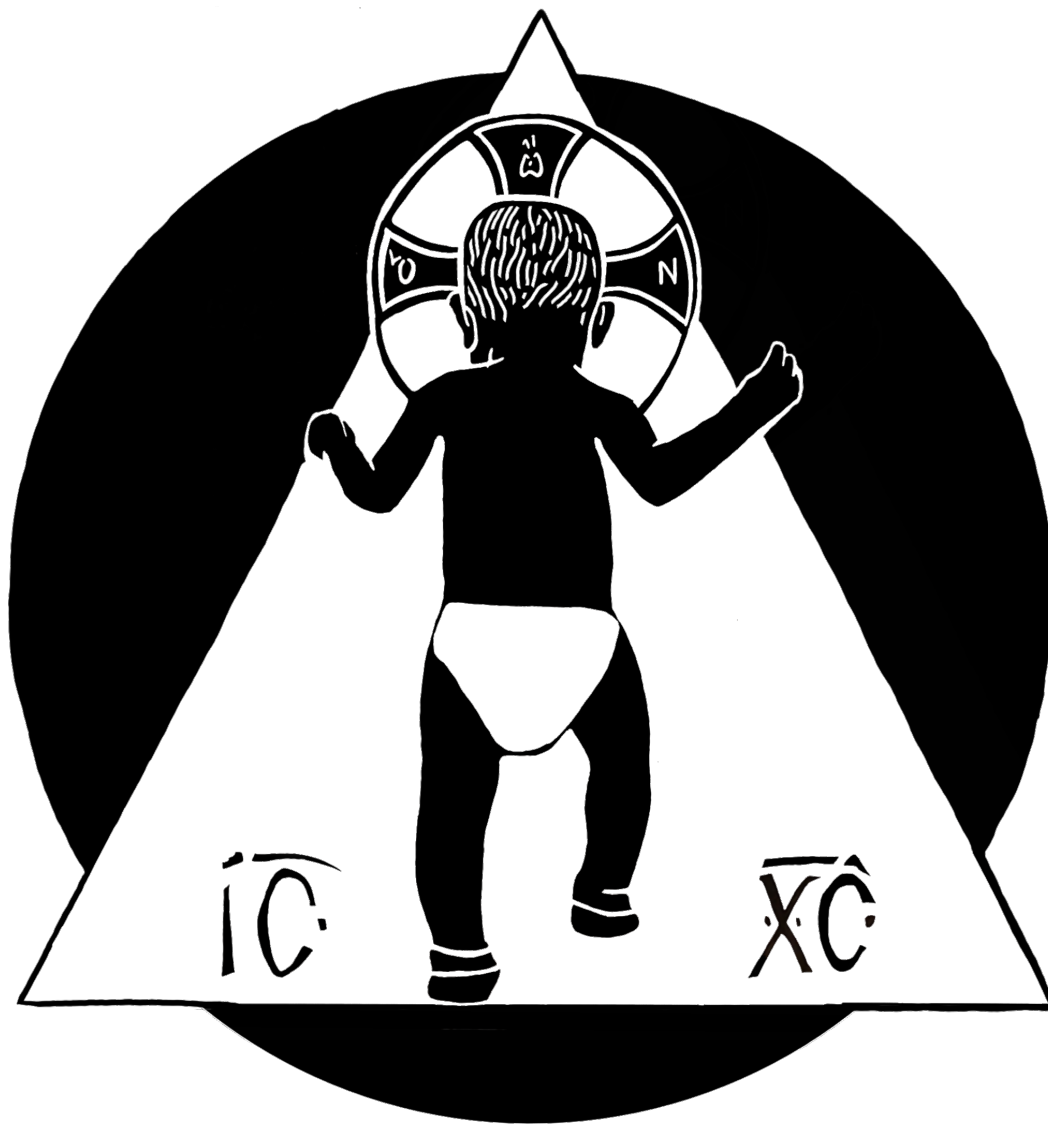


*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



8 DECEMBER 2024  
The Second Sunday in Advent  
10:30 am

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*Academy Administrator*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

## WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

TOGETHER WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**8 DECEMBER 2024**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Holy Communion • *Missa Emmanuel* • 10:30**

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

**PRELUDE – “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”**

I. E. Hovland

II. G. Near

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

**P** Let us pray.

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

**P** God,

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

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

**C** Amen.

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

## GATHERING HYMN

ELW 264

### Prepare the Royal Highway

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains a single line of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence in each system. The bass line provides a steady harmonic foundation.

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

## KYRIE

**Cantor:** Lord, have mer - cy. **All:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Christ, have mer - cy. **All:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Lord, have mer - cy. **All:** Lord, have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray.  
 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.*



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

**FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. <sup>2</sup>Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting, <sup>3</sup>for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven, <sup>4</sup>for God will give you evermore the name, “Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.” <sup>5</sup>Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. <sup>6</sup>For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies, but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. <sup>7</sup>For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Jacob may walk safely in the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Jacob at God’s command. <sup>9</sup>For God will lead Jacob with joy, in the light of divine glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from God.

**L** Hear the One for whom we wait.

**C** Come, Word of God.

**PSALMODY: Luke 1:68-79**

**ELW 552**

**Blessed Be the God of Israel**



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,  
who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,  
The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;  
God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79  
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933  
Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.  
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup>for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God’s grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ

you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

📖 Hear the One for whom we wait.

📖 Come, Word of God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(lighted by Sue Cappelletty and Karen Lundwall)*

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

📖 God, we reach for unreasonable hope;

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

📖 God, we breathe in your peaceful refuge,

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

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

📖 God, we feel threatened by painful truths, but you build the path to peace through the wilderness. Speak boldly to us today so we can construct true peace upon the foundation of your care.

📖 Amen.

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

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

*Refrain*

Your love is more than words, O God, a flame you kin - dle, a seed you sow, a  
rose that blooms in the snow, and we will mag - ni - fy your love.

### GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

📖 Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, 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, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as 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 straight the paths of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Every 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, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jay

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 255**

### There's a Voice in the Wilderness

1 There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing, a  
2 O Je-ru-sa-lem, her-ald good tid-ings, as  
3 But the word of our Sav-ior is faith-ful, the

call from the ways un-trod: Pre-pare in the des-ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro-claim to a des-o-late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high-way, a high-way for our God!  
peo-ple the com-ing of their king.  
na-tions and soon will right the wrong.

The val-leys shall be ex-alt-ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per-ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep-herd, the

loft-y hills brought low; make straight all the crook-ed  
grass our works de-cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent-ly hold; in pas-tures of peace now

plac-es where God, our God, may go!  
na-tions shall and like a dream a-way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

## PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM

### PRESENTATION

*Sponsors, parents, and the person who was baptized in extraordinary circumstances gather with the ministers at the font. The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

- ☐ God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*The baptized person is presented.*

- ☐ I present George Clair Hedlund to this community of faith.

*The presiding minister announces the baptism that has taken place.*

- ☐ George was baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on November 24 at Lakeside Methodist Church in Dubois, Pennsylvania.

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who have brought a child for recognition of baptism.*

- ☐ As you rejoice in the baptism of your child, you are also entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

- ☒ *Response: I do.*

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The presiding minister addresses the person whose baptism is being recognized as well as the parents and sponsors of a young child. The assembly may join in the responses.*

- ☐ Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

- ☒ I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

- ☐ Do you believe in God the Father?

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

- ☐ Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

- ☑ **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.**

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** 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.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

*The presiding minister leads the assembly in giving thanks.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. We thank you that by your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, George Clair has been washed in the waters of baptism and has been given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### ASSEMBLY ACCLAMATION

ELW 212

*The assembly joins in acclaiming the newly baptized.*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) using a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized. al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics clearly aligned under the notes.

Text: *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship 3  
Music: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962  
Text © 2002 and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

- P** Let us welcome our brother, George Clair Hedlund.
- C** **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*

## **THE PRAYERS**

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

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

## **THE PEACE**

- P** The peace of the Lord is with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

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



**THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**

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

**ANTHEM – “Advent”**

L. Smith

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**ELW 254**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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

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

**GREAT THANKSGIVING  
DIALOG**

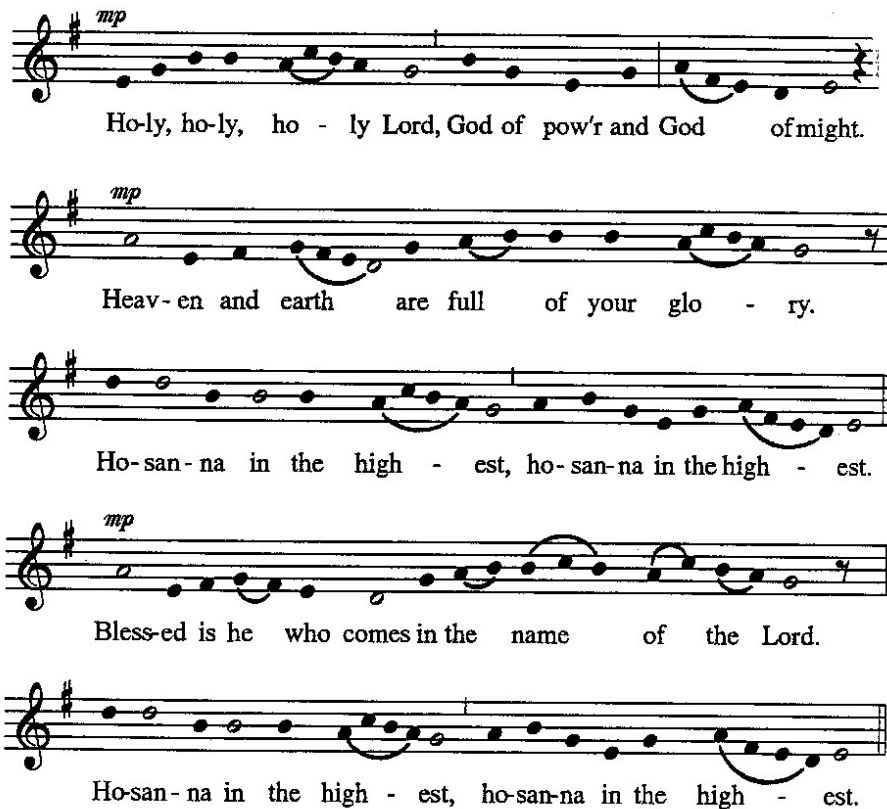
**P** The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C** And also with you.  
We lift them to the Lord.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

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

## SANCTUS



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

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

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

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

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

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

**P** And let the people cry,

**C** **O come and save us.**

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

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

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



- P** And let the people cry,  
**C** **O come and save us.**
- P** Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** And let the people pray:  
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
 and let these gifts to us be blessed.  
 Blest be God, who is our Bread;  
 may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your sovereignty and teach us to pray:  
**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.
- C** **Amen. We come.**
- P** Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

*The congregation is seated.*

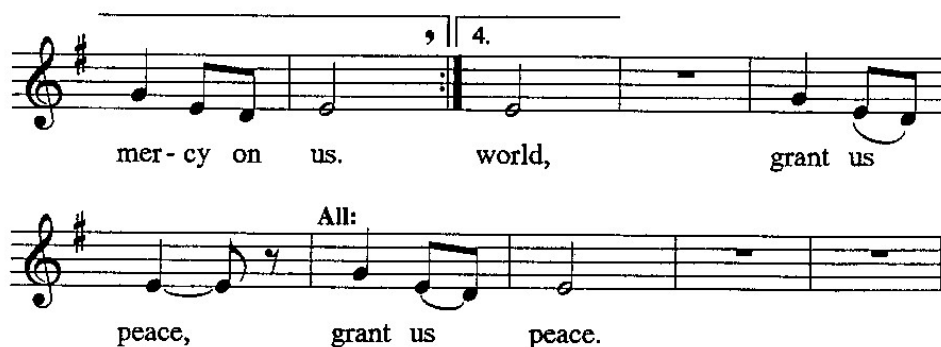
## AGNUS DEI

*mp*

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

1.2.3. All:

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



## THE COMMUNION

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

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 438

### My Lord, What a Morning

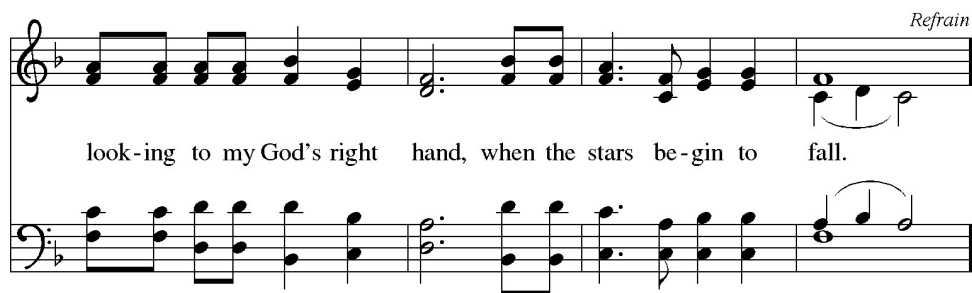
*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der-ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

ELW 241

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,  
 Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.  
 Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,  
 to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite  
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

*You may remain seated until after the announcements.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

**C** Amen.

## SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

**P** Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to you, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our siblings who are not here. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**P** We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.

**C** We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.

**C** Your love is often unrecognizable,  
unappreciated,  
gentle and unnoticed.

**A** But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.

**C** We have tasted your unspoken goodness.  
And now we will magnify your love. Amen.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

**P** ... now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

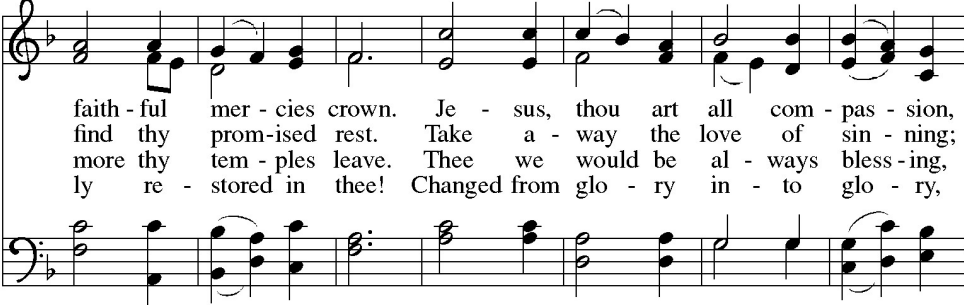
ELW 631

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- ☐ Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- ☒ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE – “People Look East”

W. Wold

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— SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Linda Swanson

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Elaine Kern

*LECTOR* – Eric Hedlund

*ALTAR GUILD* – Donna Sedelmyer

*USHERS* – Sue Cappelletty, Linda Graffius

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Gina Snider



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Harry, and my son, Alan, by Marjorie Johnson.

**Rose on the altar** is in celebration of the baptism of George Clair Hedlund by his grandparents, Cindy and Eric Hedlund.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of JoAnn Guilianelli who died Thursday, November 21. JoAnn taught at Luther Memorial Academy for many years until her retirement in 2015. A memorial service will be held for JoAnn in the spring.

**Today's Events**

**Why isn't Pastor Jay preaching from the pulpit?** In this season—as we are reminded in the salutation at the readings, “Hear the One for Whom We Wait. **Thanks be to God.**”—we are waiting in this season for the Word Incarnate. We are waiting for the very Word of God Made Flesh. Our waiting is not just for a once upon a time moment in human history in Bethlehem all those years ago but our every day. We are living as Advent people; living in expectant hope for the Word's returning. This is further accentuated by our gospels in this season. For three of our four weeks of Advent Jesus doesn't show up. He's not in the texts. He's not even mentioned in two of them! We are waiting. As such, to draw our attention to the waiting, Pastor Jay will be preaching from the lectern where all our other readings are done. We will have one place from which we hear The Word and we will wait together for the day when the Word will be Flesh among us again.

**Hanging of the Greens** will take place this morning following services. Please join us to ready our church for the festive season.

**Adult Forum** will meet this morning at 9:15 in the library. Our topic will be *Singing with Luke*. Join us in December as we explore with Zechariah, Mary, Simeon, and the angelic host.

**Sunday School** for PreK-Grade 5 will meet this morning at 9:30. Bring your little ones to join us.

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

**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.

**Faith Formation**

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

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

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

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will meet December 10 and take December 24 off. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** annual Christmas party will be held Wednesday, December 18 in the parlor. Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm for a festive holiday gathering complete with carols accompanied by our cantor, Bryan Timm. The main dish for lunch will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. In the spirit of giving a collection will be taken which will be given to the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes by Friday, December 6.

### **Christmas Preparations**

**Blue Christmas Service** will be offered Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00pm in our main church. For many the holidays are a difficult time, and we invite you to join us for this special service to hear a message of hope and love. The service will be live streamed and will also be available on our website the following day.

**St Lucia Festival will be held Sunday, December 15 at 3:00pm.** We are excited to offer this beautiful program which begins our holiday season and look forward to seeing you. Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations. Doors will open at 2:30pm for the St. Lucia Festival presentation.

**Family Christmas Pageant** will be presented on Sunday, December 22 at the 10:30am service. Please join us for this special service.

**Cheer baskets** will be delivered to our homebound friends on Sunday, December 15. The baskets will be prepared on Saturday, December 14 at 9:30am. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the church office. Thank you.

### **Outreach Ministry**

**Handmade Quilts** that were blessed during worship on November 17 were delivered to Community Shelter Services. They were thrilled with how beautiful the quilts are and have many residents that can use them. The Shelter provides housing for men, women and children and everyone is served 3 meals daily as well as an evening snack. Shower facilities are also available. They shared that quilts would be most welcome at any time and during the upcoming winter months hats are needed. What we are able to do for them is ‘God’s Work. Our Hands’!

### **Luther Memorial Academy**

**You are invited** to shop at the LMA Christmas Fair on Thursday, December 19 from 8:30-10:00am. Gifts and stocking stuffers will help complete your shopping. The Christmas Fair is located on the fifth floor.

### **Items to Note**

**In case of an emergency** and unable to reach Pastor Jay, 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.

**— PRAYER LIST —**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Our Members:**

Dorothy Youngman  
Matt, Jessica Kinzig & family  
Marilyn Bohn & family

Dave Parsh  
Virginia Long  
Rosanne Braine

Rose-Marie Rose  
Pat Gilbert  
Lois Smith

Ron King  
Lois Fobes  
Ed Hokaj

**Friends and Family:**

Bev  
Jessica Bulos Grubb  
Leigh Ann Fassnacht  
Jean Coburn  
Tom Kraut  
Andy Zimmerman  
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn  
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail

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

Norma Lynch  
Donna Peck  
Casey Smith  
Branden Jones  
Bernadette Mulder  
Cheryl Runstedler  
Joey & family  
Jane

Jenn Eddy  
Curtis Krick  
Fred Kern  
Cheryl Atkinson  
Steve Sensor  
Dale Dannhaus  
Michele Seifert  
Amy S.

**Grief:**

Emma Houseman family

JoAnn Guilianelli family

**Our Military Service Men & Women:**

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson  
Ben Dixon

Michael Stickner  
Mark Collins

Andrew Watson  
Christopher Rose

Alli Brown

**READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS**

**December 9** – Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25

**December 10** – Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; II Peter 1:2-15

**December 11** – Psalm 126; Isaiah 25:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

**December 12** – Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; II Corinthians 8:1-15

**December 13 – Lucy, martyr, 304** – Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Psalm 45; Romans 8:31b-39; John 3:17-21 -- *Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.*

**December 14 – Juan de la Cruz, renewer of the church, 1591** – Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 46; I Corinthians 2:1-10a; Mark 10:35-45 -- *John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.*



## C A L E N D A R

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9**

<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10</b>	10:00pm 6:00pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group Church Council
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<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11</b>	12:00pm 6:00pm	Brown Bag Bible Blue Christmas Service
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<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12</b>	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
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<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13</b>	5:00pm	Julia Hospice House Christmas Party
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<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14</b>	12:00pm	Cello Recital
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### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

**Adult Forum** will be held at 9:15am.

**Coffee Hour**, provided by the Deborah Circle, will be offered at 11:30am.

**St. Lucia Festival** will be presented at 3:00pm with a reception following.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Chloe Meucci
Communion Assistant	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Lectors	10:30am	Tessa & Jack Bartlett
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Nick Lang
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	

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

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



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



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

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