

*Welcome to*  
Luther Memorial Church



4 JANUARY 2026  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
10:30 am



## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

## WELCOME!

COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

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

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

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

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

+ You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those 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).

**PRELUDE – "Joseph est bien Marie"**

C. Balbastre

*Please rise in body or spirit.***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*


Reconciling God,  
 we yearn for your presence to transform  
 our grief, pain, and despair.  
 We confess that we have not always prepared  
 room in our hearts for your love;  
 we have not always recognized  
 your presence among us;  
 we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
 We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
 oppression, and fear.  
 We confess our failure to make room  
 for those seeking refuge;  
 our participation in violent systems  
 that harm your innocent ones;  
 our reluctance to embody your good news.  
 Be born in us today  
 and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
**Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**Amen.****GATHERING CAROL****ELW 287****Let All Together Praise Our God**

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a





high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:  
 you take our flesh and blood,  
 and in return give us to share  
 the shining realm of God,  
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today  
 that leads to paradise;  
 the angel bars the way no more.  
 To God let praises rise,  
 to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman  
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

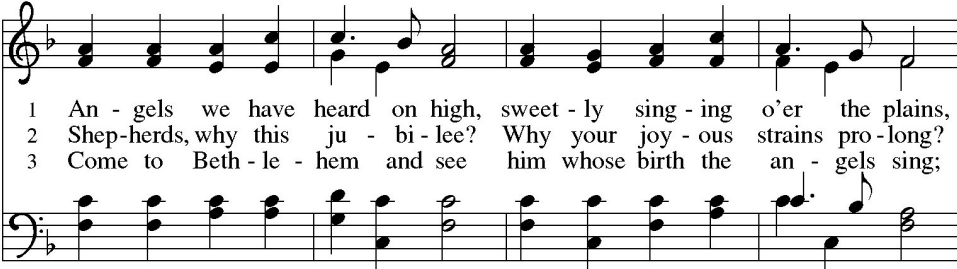
The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

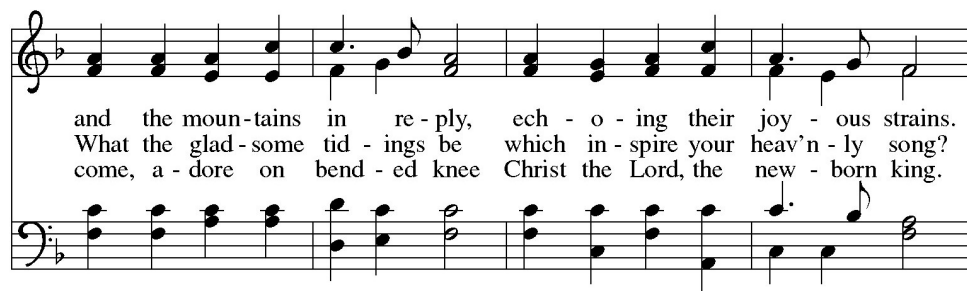
## CAROL OF PRAISE

ELW 289

### Angels We Have Heard on High



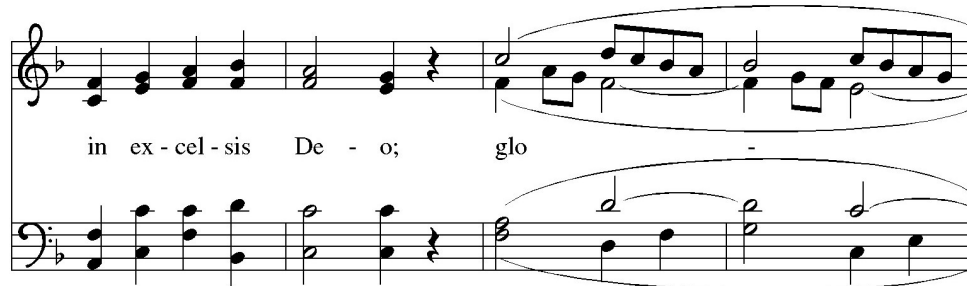
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains.  
What the glad-some tid-ings be which in-spire your heav'n-ly song?  
come, a-dore on bend-ed knee Christ the Lord, the new-born king.



*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo - ri - a



ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Jesus, who humbled himself to share our humanity; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON****BLESSING OF THE LECTOR**

Let us pray: Bless Kelley, O God, as they proclaim to us the scriptures, and open the mangers of our hearts to welcome you Word, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

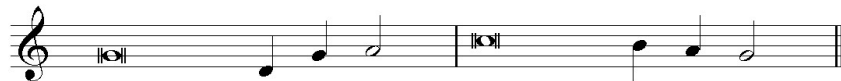
**FIRST READING: Sirach 24:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. <sup>2</sup>In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of God's hosts she tells of her glory: <sup>3</sup>"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth like a mist. <sup>4</sup>I encamped in the heights, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. <sup>5</sup>Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. <sup>6</sup>Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. <sup>7</sup>Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? <sup>8</sup>Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator pitched my tent, saying, 'Encamp in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' <sup>9</sup>Before the ages, in the beginning, the Most High created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. <sup>10</sup>In the holy tent I ministered before God, and so I was established in Zion. <sup>11</sup>"Thus in the beloved city the Most High gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. <sup>12</sup>I took root in an honored people; in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance."

The Word is made flesh.      **Thanks be to God!**

**Wisdom 10:15-21**

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

**Tone:**

<sup>15</sup>A holy people and [blame]-less race  
wisdom delivered from a nation [of ] oppressors.

**<sup>16</sup>She entered the soul of a servant [of] the Lord,  
and withstood dread kings with [wonders] and signs.**

<sup>17</sup>She gave to holy people the reward of their labors; ...  
she guided them along a [marv']-lous way,  
and became a shelter to them by day, ...  
and a starry [flame through] the night.

**<sup>18</sup>She brought them over the [Red] Sea,  
and led them through [deep] waters;**

<sup>19</sup>but she [drowned] their enemies,  
and cast them up from the [depth of ] the sea. *Antiphon*

**<sup>20</sup>Therefore the righteous plundered [the] ungodly;  
they sang hymns O Lord, ... to your holy name, ...  
and praised with one accord your de-[fend]-ing hand;**

<sup>21</sup>for wisdom opened the mouths of [those who] were mute,  
and made the tongues of [infants] speak clearly. *Antiphon*

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that before God we should be holy and blameless in love. <sup>5</sup>God destined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of God's glorious grace, freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>God has made known to us the mystery of the divine will, according to God's good pleasure set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to divine counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God's glory. <sup>13</sup>In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory.

The Word is made flesh.      **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The Alleluia is sung through by all. A cantor sings the verse and the Alleluia is repeated by all.*



*All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.*

## GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow for eighty four years. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting

and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

**HOMILY**


Pastor Jay

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

**CAROL OF THE DAY**

**ACS 1093**

## In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the  
2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,  
3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your  
4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad

first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it  
firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.  
match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,  
A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,

worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,  
Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,  
Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,  
Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,

in your mer - cy, you em - braced us  
sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and  
Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we  
lead us home - ward, to the love - feast

as your own,  
breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
glimpse your face,  
of the Lamb,

## THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

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

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through whom all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Guide Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all who serve your Church. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Uphold the Church of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine. We pray also for our synod, especially the congregations of Faith and St. Peter as well as retired rostered ministers, John and Richard. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ Child be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you. Please be seated.*

### MEAL

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

### THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



*An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church.*

### MUSICAL OFFERING – "Divinum Mysterium"

W. Held

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

### OFFERTORY

### As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302

A musical score for a hymn. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.

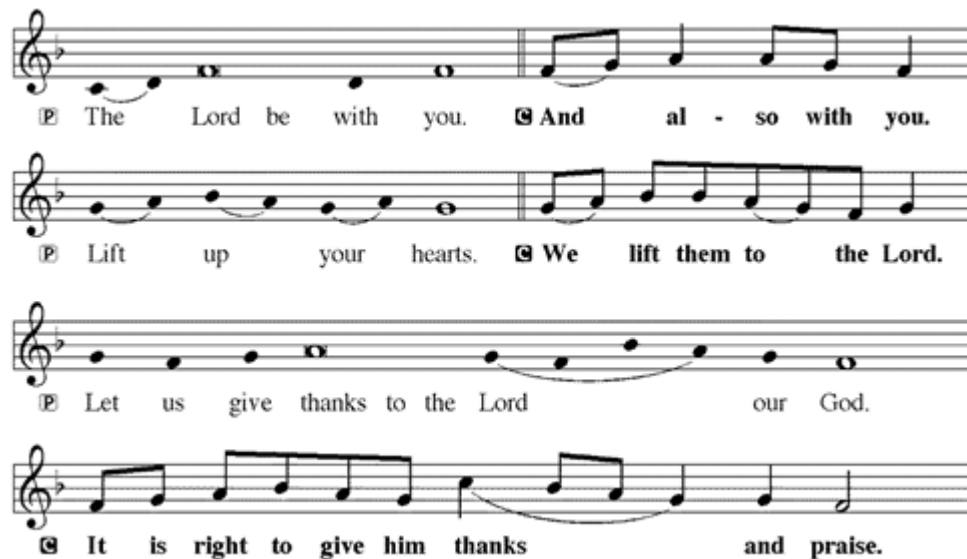
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.  
 ☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.  
 ☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 ☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

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

## SANCTUS



Sing ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might,—  
 Heav'n and earth your glo - ry show, Ho - san - na in the high - est,  
 Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name\_ of the Lord. Ho -



### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things. Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your Word, and your light shines in our darkness.

**Glory to you, O God.**

The seas are thundering with praise, the rivers are clapping their hands. The hills ring out with gladness, and the trees are shouting their joy.

**Glory to you, O God.**

Your Son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a manger, Jesus Christ, born of Mary and lauded by angels.

**Glory to you, O God.**

*On the night before he died, 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.*

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son. Make known to the whole earth your steadfast love.

**Glory to you, O God.**

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands. In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life-giving Spirit.

**Glory to you, O God.**

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the hosts of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God Most High, Light of the earth, and Judge of the world, today and forever.

**Amen.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Here is Christ himself for you. Come with shepherds and angels, animals and magi, with Mary and Joseph, with Simeon and Anna, to cradle in your hands the very One who feeds you with himself.

**Amen. We come.**

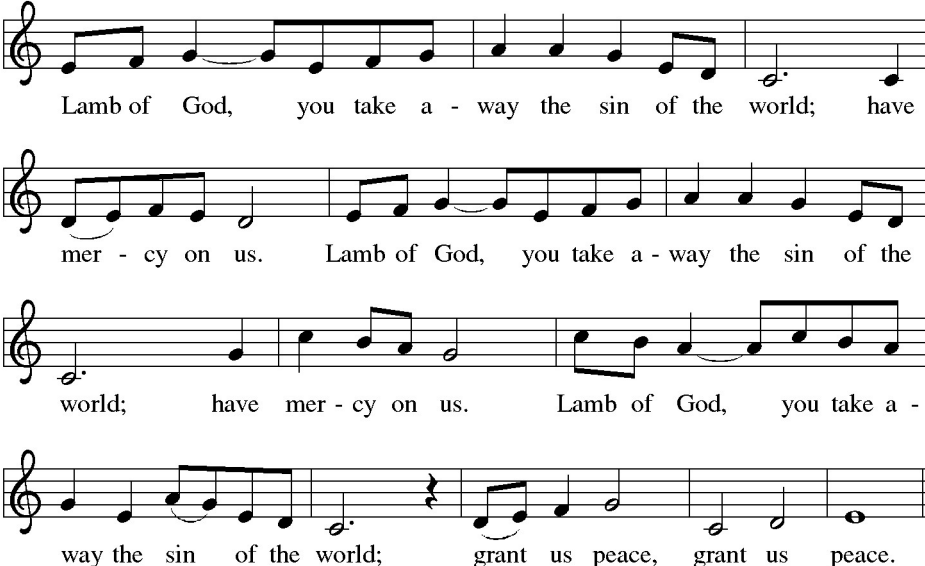
For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know. Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

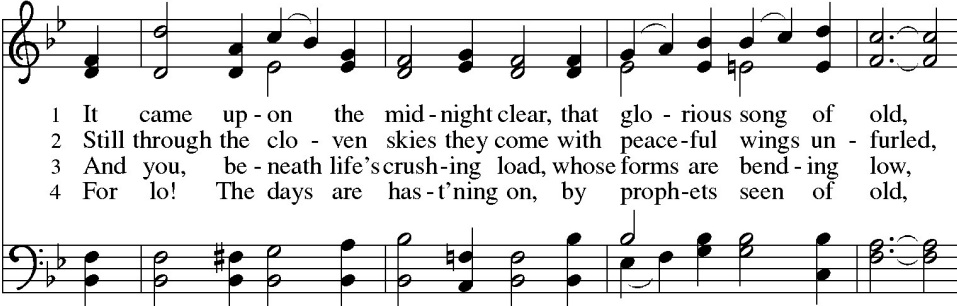
## HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION



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

ELW 282

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900


ACS 908

## In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes

1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.  
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.  
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:

Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the  
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each  
ra - diant star to light our way. Sum - mer's

an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,  
home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,  
heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.  
 for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.  
 to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.


Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952  
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ELW 302


## As with Gladness Men of Old



4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

## TABLE BLESSING



## O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light;

for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;

a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,

the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.  
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

...now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**ELW 300**

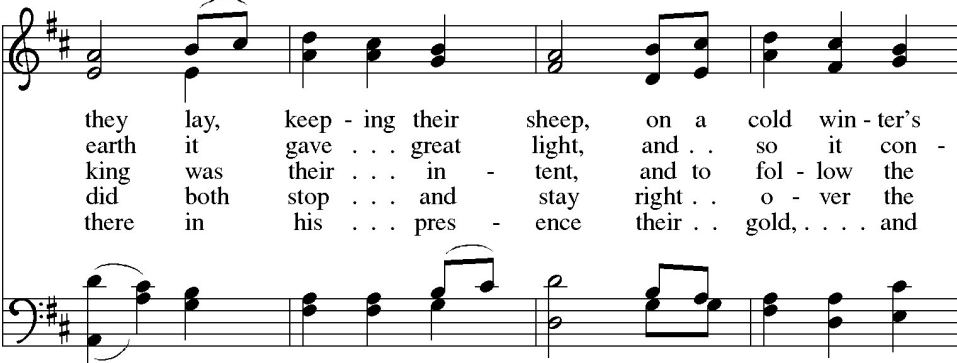
**The First Noel**



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional  
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in peace! Tell the Good News!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE – "Fanfare: In Dulci Jubilo"

P. Fey

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

### — SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell*

*ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer*

*ASSISTING MINISTER – Stan Rose*

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT –*

*LECTOR – Kelley Lang*

*USHER – Sue Cappelletty*

*ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp*

*VIDEO STREAMING –*



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our children and grandchildren by Cindy and Eric Hedlund.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family, friends, and former parishioners of The Rev. Martin M. Roth who died on December 26. A service date has not been scheduled.

**This Tuesday, January 6, is The Epiphany of Our Lord**, one of the major feast days of the Church and the last of the days of Christmas. The Erie Lutheran Conference will meet for worship and fellowship at Faith Lutheran Church (5414 E Lake Rd.) for worship at 7:00pm. The Very Rev. Dr. John Downey, vicar of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Dean Emeritus of St. Paul's Cathedral, and Canon Theologian for the NWPAC Episcopal Diocese will preach. There will be festivities after as we burn the Christmas greens. We hope to see you there!

### **Worship Matters!**

**Epiphany**, the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, is the last of the major non-moveable feasts in the church year. We may have just started the church year a few weeks ago with the First Sunday in Advent, but after January 6, all the other major moveable feasts do not have a dedicate *date* but move—sometimes quite widely—around the calendar based on the date of Easter.

The date of Easter has been a hot topic for awhile in the Church and the way to find the date each year may be confusing. But the Golden Date of Easter is *always* the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Then, count back forty days for Ash Wednesday, count forward forty days for Ascension Day and fifty days for Pentecost and then we're off and rolling for the long green season before coming to Christ the King Sunday which is the 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time. Other feasts and festivals—such as the Annunciation (3/25) or the Feast of St. Peter and Paul (6/28) are not moveable either, but they are not considered major feasts of the church year either.

Because it is the last of the non-moveable major feasts of the church year, and since a large portion of the church's life has been spent without Google, it is a tradition to announce the moveable feasts on the Day of Epiphany. Since we will be sharing in worship on the actual day of Epiphany with our siblings of the Erie Lutheran Conference at Faith in Harborcreek, here is the Announcement of the Moveable Feasts:

Know, dear siblings, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior:

On the eighteenth day of February will fall **Ash Wednesday**, and the beginning of the great fast of Lent.

On the second day of April we will gather around this Table for the celebration of **Maundy Thursday** and our annual commemoration of the institution of Our Lord's Supper and his command to love one another with servant-like love.

On the third day of April will fall **Good Friday**, and the contemplation of our Lord's merciful Passion.

On the fourth day of April, we will gather for the **Great Vigil of Easter** and the recitation of our Salvation History.

On the fifth day of April we will celebrate with joy **Easter Day**, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the commencement of the Week of Sundays, the Great Feast of Eastertide.

On the fourteenth day of May will fall the **Ascension** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twenty-fourth day of May, the Great Feast of **Pentecost**, and the celebration of the birth of the Church catholic.

On the thirty-first day of May is the Feast of the **Holy Trinity**, and the contemplation of the great mystery of the Godhead.

The twenty-second day of November will see the conclusion of this liturgical year as we celebrate the feast of **Christ Jesus, Sovereign of the Universe**.

And on the twenty-ninth day of November, we will begin the Church year again with the celebration of the **First Sunday of Advent**.

To Jesus Christ who was and is and is to come the ruler of time be all honor and glory forever. Amen.

About the **Bulletin Cover Art**: from the iconographer, Kelly Latimore: *La presentación de Cristo en el templo* is a modern take on the prophets Anna and Simeon meeting the baby Jesus.” In this icon notice: Mary is depicted as the Virgen de Guadalupe, a meaningful depiction for our Latinx siblings. Joseph carries two roosters to harken to the two turtledove or young pigeons that impoverished families were permitted to offer as they dedicated their child to God in lieu of the more expensive offers of lambs. Additionally, as with many icons around the nativity of Jesus, note that the crucifix—reminder of Jesus’ death—is not far away; a reminder that Christ is born to die for our sake.

### Today’s Events

**Christmas decorations** will be taken down and stored following the 10:30 service this morning. If you are able to stay and lend a hand it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### New Members!

We welcome **new members** to our congregation next Sunday during the 10:30am worship service. Be sure to join in the celebration as we welcome these siblings into our life of worship and service here at Luther Memorial. A festive reception will follow in the Parlor.

### Worship

**Altar flowers** are available for Sunday, January 25. If you would like to place flowers on the altar please contact Norma in the church office. Thank you.

**Prayers Arise**, a Service of Evening Prayer in the spirit of Holden Village, will be offered each Wednesday in January at 6:00pm. We will gather on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for this half hour Vespers Service; January 7, 14, 21 and 28.

### Faith Formation for All Ages

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. We will meet on January 8.

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari’s Squid Row (1317 State St) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We are using Josh Scott’s book *Parables: Putting Jesus’ Stories in Their Place*. If you would like to order your book from the church office, the cost is \$14. You may also order your own. **YOU** are invited to join us! There will not be a gathering in January, our next gathering is on February 3.

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

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation are appreciated to the church office by Sunday, January 11, 2026. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 25, and copies will be available to the congregation.

Children in PreK-grade 9 will enjoy a movie and snacks during the Congregational Meeting. We will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**OWLS** Valentine Luncheon at the Ambassador Conference Center will be held Friday, February 13, 2026 at 12:00 noon. This is a very popular event with many attending. Reservations were due to Jan MacInnes by December 28. If you are interested in attending please contact Jan at 814-833-0476.

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Begin 2026 with us on Tuesday, January 13. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

### **Help a LMA Family**

**After the devastating fire** on 12<sup>th</sup> Street last weekend, one of our families has lost their family business. If you are able to help, please consider donating by scanning the QR Code, or at: <https://gofund.me/24b3b303a> Thank you.

### **“Music for a Sunday Morning”**

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church** will be dedicating its new organ console and honoring Vicki Baldwin, our late organist and choir director for 33 years, on Sunday, January 18 at 2:30pm.

Please join us for a program of “Music for a Sunday Morning” featuring Dr. Chris Petit, music director and organist at St. Paul’s Episcopal, Phil Baldwin, violinist, and Margaret Andreso, soprano. In addition to their musical selections, there will be a hymn sing of favorites chosen by members of Mt. Calvary. Mt. Calvary is located at 1603 West 32<sup>nd</sup> St at the corner of Greengarden Blvd. All are invited.

### **Items to Note**

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**In case of a pastoral emergency**, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

### **— PRAYER LIST —**

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



### Readings and Commemoration This Week

**January 5 – The Eleventh Day of Christmas --** Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2

**January 6 – The Twelfth Day of Christmas -- THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD –** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**January 7 –** Psalm 72; I Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21

**January 8 –** Psalm 29; I Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9

**January 9 –** Psalm 29; I Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a

**January 10 –** Psalm 29; I Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31

YOU KNOW, THE IDEA  
THAT GOD – THE WISDOM  
OF THE COSMOS – WOULD  
BECOME A REAL HUMAN  
WAS BEYOND THE  
IMAGINATION OF THE  
GREEK PHILOSOPHERS.



WAIT! ARE YOU  
SAYING THAT THE  
PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT  
US "SETTING CHEESE  
ON FIRE" AND YANNI...



WERE LACKING  
IN IMAGINATION?



JOHN 1:1-12

G. NETZTEN 12 DEC. 12.31

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 5</b>	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 6</b>	10:00am 5:00pm	Pericope LMA Basketball Practice
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7</b>	6:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 8</b>	12:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 5:00pm 5:30pm 6:45pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group LMA Play Practice LMA Basketball Practice Handbells Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 9</b>		
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 10</b>	9:30am	Scouting Event

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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

**Confirmation class** for 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade begins at 11:30am.

<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	Liz Stroup, Pat Young
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	