

WELCOME TO
**LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & ACADEMY**



12 APRIL 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

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!

This is the day that the Lord has made. Together, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today: Almost everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You are invited to stand as you are able where indicated. Please join in singing all the music! Today especially we raise our voices in praise!

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!** You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to check in and let your friends know where you are!

~ We welcome all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).

~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

PRELUDE – "Grazioso"

H. Smart

Please rise in body or spirit and face the ministers at the Font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Alleluia! Amen!

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ELW 363



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal;
 who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
 Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing.
 wel-comes in un-wea-ried strain Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion!
 your deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.
 Al-le-lu-ia! yet a-gain to the Spir-it rais-ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our risen savior Jesus Christ, the love of our ever-living God, and the communion of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

The refrain is sung by all. High Voices: vv. 1 and 3-4 Low Voices: vv. 2 and 5

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
 2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength, And
 3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
 4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
 5. For the Lamb who was slain Has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. ... *refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing and glo - ry are his. ... *refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: ... *to verse 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. ... *refrain*
 gun his reign, Al - le - lu - ia! ... *final refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Dignus est Agnus, tr. John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray: Bless, O Lord, your servant Michael as he reads to us the holy word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 15:1-11

^{15:1}Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. ²The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father’s God, and I will exalt him. ³The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. ⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea. ⁵The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. ⁶Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. ⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble. ⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹The enemy said, ‘I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’ ¹⁰You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: 111

tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Hallelujah! Among the just my heart will give God thanks and praise; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your works are great and learned by all who take delight to know your ways.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your work is full of majesty, enduring splendor, righteousness; Alleluia! Alleluia!
And gracious Lord, we well recall your works for they are marvelous. Alleluia...

To those who fear God, you give food; you show the power of your hand Alleluia! Alleluia!
as, mindful of your covenant, you give to us the promised land. Alleluia...

Your hands work justice, faithfulness, and your commandments all are sure; Alleluia! Alleluia!
for they are done in equity and truth, and they will long endure. Alleluia...

Redemption and eternal law you sent us; holy is your Name; Alleluia! Alleluia!
with fear of God wisdom begins, whose praise endures, always the same. Alleluia...

SECOND READING: I Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith— being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire— may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now,

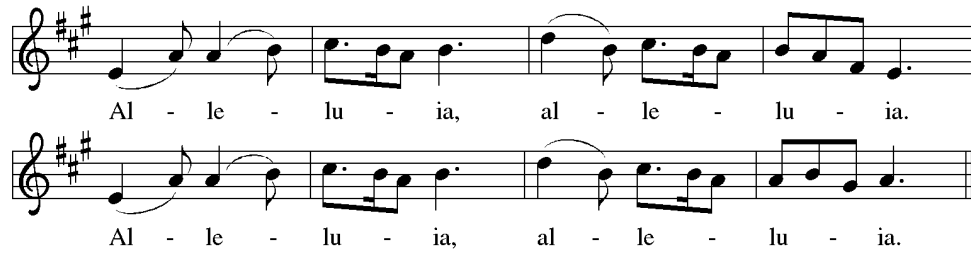
you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing the Alleluia. The choir sings the verse after which all repeat the Alleluia.



Blessed are those who have not yet seen and yet have come to believe.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed into them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

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

The Risen Christ



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949
 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.
 Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

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.**

The congregation kneels, sits, or stands as is customary for the:

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant, in particular, Christopher and Joann. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING



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

MUSICAL OFFERING – "Meditation"

P. Fey

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 391

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
sprung to life this mor - - row.

Refrain
Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our
faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into several systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system includes the lyrics '1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and'. The second system includes 'sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has'. The third system includes 'sprung to life this mor - - row.'. The fourth system is marked 'Refrain' and includes 'Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our'. The fifth system includes 'faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in the left hand.

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

☐ 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

SANCTUS

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; when the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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

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

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now 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

Alleluia! Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed for us!
Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

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. Receive the bread in your open palm. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the distributor know. Proceeding to either communion assistant, hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. Non-alcoholized grape juice is in the pre-filled cups. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the bowls. 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.*

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 384

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing



1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;

Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.

9 On this most ho - ly day of days,



with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:
 the faith - ful wom - en went their way
 who sits and speaks un - to the three,
 a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,
 be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:



to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!
 and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
 to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 When Thomas first the tidings heard, that they had seen the risen Lord, he doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!</p> | <p>7 No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see, and look upon my hands, my feet; not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia!</p> | <p>8 How blest are they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant been, for they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!</p> |

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Music: O FILII ET FILIAE, French tune, 15th cent.

TABLE BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BLESSING**

...now and forever.

Amen.**SENDING HYMN****ELW 548****Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen**

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



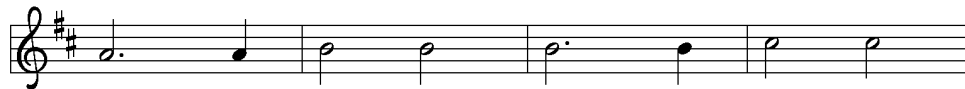
from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – "Gaudeamus Pariter"

R. Farlee

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

— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTOR – Michael Hedlund

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Linda Graffius, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

VIDEO STREAMING – Patrick Cimino



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Christopher A. Fobes by Les Fobes, and Amy, Jim and Garrett Carlowski.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Joann Perry who died Monday, April 6.

Today's Events

Second Sunday Socials will be held this morning at 9:15 in the parlor. Join us for conversation and some sweets. Please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship.

Sunday school for grades 1-5 will be held at 9:30 this morning.

Youth in grades 6-12 will meet this morning at 9:30am. Discussion will be held regarding the National Youth Gathering scheduled for 2027.

Worship Matters!

Often called "Low Sunday," the Second Sunday of Easter should be anything but! This is *still* the Day of Resurrection. Christ is *still* risen! His life is *still* for us our own life! And the gospel this week tells this forth. Every year on the Second Sunday of Easter we hear the story of Jesus' appearance to the disciples immediately after he appears to Mary Magdalene in the garden. His appearance to the 10 is not at some other day but the very Day of Resurrection! It is Thomas whose first encounter with the Risen Christ is a week later. Perhaps this is why we share this story on this Sunday every year. Perhaps we are being called to see ourselves as Thomas and ask what we need in order to truly believe in the power of the Resurrection. Or perhaps we are called to consider ourselves as the disciples who were able to see the Risen One on the first Day of Resurrection and held Thomas in his disbelief for that week until he was able to have his own experience. However we take these texts, let us continue our rejoicing in this season! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor Jay and **Cantor Bryan** will be on Continuing Education this week at the Valparaiso Institute of Liturgical Studies. In case of pastoral emergency, please call the church office.

Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

Astralis Chamber Ensemble will offer a program on Friday, April 17 at 7:00pm at Luther Memorial. Please join us as these award-winning musicians; flute, viola and harp; present “Meditations” featuring works by Debussy, Dubois and Genzemer. These musicians represent decades of experience performing at many of the world’s major venues and notable concert series.

Presque Isle Ringers, Erie’s only community handbell ensemble, will be showcasing their amazing and unique instrument at Luther Memorial on Sunday, April 26 at 7:00pm. You will see them pluck, mallet, thumb damp, echo and toll as they share their passion for handbells. Please join us for this wonderful concert with reception following.

Faith Formation

First Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, April 19, 2026. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions are held; April 11 and 18 from 9:00am– 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. Any child and family are welcome if you’re ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

Four workshops for confirmation students, 7th grade through 9th grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, 2025 and March 8, May 10, 2026**) 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 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

Brown Bag Bible (B³) gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. B³ resumes on Thursday, April 30 with a study on the book of Revelation.

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. **YOU** are invited to join us on Tuesday, May 5. We will begin exploring *Belonging*, a study of the Woman at the Well by Karoline Lewis (you may have met her!). Books are available for purchase through the church office for \$15.

Opportunities for Fellowship

L.I.A., Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30-7:00pm for planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families meet the second Tuesday of each month; join us.

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. Our next gathering will be April 28 from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

All are invited to join with the OWLS on Wednesday, April 22 for a walking tour of Organ Supply Industries, 2320 West 50th Street. Bryan Timm, vice-president of Organ Supply, will take us on a 30-40 minute tour of the one floor facility beginning at 11:00am. Following the tour we will enjoy a stop at a restaurant for lunch. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or Norma in the church office if you plan to attend.

CampBlast will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, Pa, on Saturday, May 9 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. Rain or shine, this is a day of fun for the entire family; archery, gaga ball, zipline, crafts, hiking, hay rides, kayaking, and so much more. The entire day is free. What a wonderful way to spend your day!

Luther Memorial Academy

Pasta Dinner will be served Sunday, April 19 from 4:00-6:00pm in our fellowship hall. Take an evening away from the kitchen and enjoy a delicious Italian meal. Your meal will include Valerio's penne pasta, meatballs, Metz tossed salad, bread and butter, and brownie dessert. Tickets are \$12/adults; \$8/children 10 and under purchased prior to April 19 and \$15/adults; \$10/children 10 and under purchased at the door. Dinners may also be pre-ordered "to-go". Tickets are available in the school office. Proceeds will benefit LMA's PTL. Thank you!

Come celebrate! The Luther Memorial Academy 50th Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, May 2 from 5:00-7:30pm. **YOU** are invited to the celebration! If you are interested in joining in this historic moment in our parish, admission is \$20 per person. You may fill out a RSVP form as found on the welcome table out the doors next to the pulpit and return to the office (church or school). You may also reach out to the school office (814.454.0106 x222). The celebration won't be the same without you! Hope to see you there!

Bethany Outreach Center

Bethany BINGO Fundraiser at Polish Falcons, on Saturday, April 18: Join us for an evening of fun at this event to benefit the Bethany Outreach Center. **Doors will open at 5:00pm** and the **games begin at 6:00pm**. Admission is \$30 per person. Take part in the ALL-CASH BINGO Games, and optional Basket raffle, Tips, and Instants. To purchase admission tickets in advance, please see Pat Bellingham, Eric Hedlund, or Casey Hedlund after church on Sundays, or Norma in the church office on weekdays. On the day of this event the kitchen will be open, so food and drink will be available for purchase. We encourage you to RSVP to Mabel at **814-456-6254** so you can reserve a table for your family and friends. Polish Falcons Club is located at 431 E. 3rd St. **Hope to see you there!**

Outreach

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Every year churches, community organizations and people of faith across the country write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger. Last fall over 20 people here at Luther Memorial wrote letters to Rep. Mike Kelly, urging him co-sponsor legislation to make it easier for women, infants, and children to receive nutritional support. Those letters were hand-delivered to Rep. Kelly's office in Erie.

On April 26, 2026, we will again be participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. At 9:15 and 11:30, you will have the opportunity to write your own letter to Rep. Kelly, urging him to restore, protect, and strengthen U.S. nutrition programs that help families put food on the table. Sample letters will be available, along with fact sheets, paper, pens, and some light refreshments. On May 3 during both worship services, our letters will be brought to the altar for a prayer asking God to bless our offering, that it may contribute to a world without hunger.

Your letters matter! Leaders in Congress really do listen to their constituents. Every letter you write to your representatives on Capitol Hill is read and cataloged – and tells your representative which issues to prioritize. When enough people speak up, hunger is impossible to ignore!

In Matthew 14:16, when the disciples asked Jesus to send the hungry crowd away, he replied, "You give them something to eat." Today, that same call comes to us. Join us on April 26 to make your voice heard. Let's double the number of letters delivered to Rep. Kelly this year!

For more information about Bread for the World, visit www.bread.org.

Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County and Gannon University Office of the Chaplain invite you to an Interfaith Prayer for Healing, Renewal, and Hope. As our world faces the realities of war, uncertainty, and hardship, we invite you to join us in prayer, reflection, and shared hope. Faith leaders from across Erie, including heads of congregations and spiritual leaders from Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Protestant, and other Christian communities, will offer brief prayers and reflections. Please join us Sunday, April 26 from 5:00-7:00pm in the Yehl Ballroom, Gannon University, 124 W. 7th Street. The event is free and open to all. You may register at <https://arcg.is/1qKviC>.

Items to Note

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.

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.

— PRAYER LIST —

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: | | | |
| Our Members: | | | |
| Betsy Brumagin | Ed Hokaj | Rose-Marie Rose | Pat Gilbert |
| Diane Parsons | Judy Karney | Karen Zamperini | Loretta Deeds |
| Donna Sedelmyer | Kate Martin | Sutton Rowland | David Leemhuis |
| Friends and Family: | | | |
| Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly | Gail Lesuer | Linda F. | Kris |
| Archer Bardwell; age 3 | Brooks Davis | Sharon Swick | Peggy S. |
| Henderson family | Carl Larese | Shirley | Diane Come |
| Kevin Soles & family | Jenny | Carol McFalls | Valerie |
| Adam & Connie Ogle | Katja & family | Peter Maker | Caroline Daniels |
| Mark Zamperini | | | |
| Grief: | | | |
| Shirley Messenger family | Roberta Come family | Joann Perry family | |
| Our Military Service Men & Women: | | | |
| Matt Anderson | Michael Stickner | Andrew Watson | Alli Brown |
| Ben Dixon | Mark Collins | Christopher Rose | Justin Gajewski |

Readings and Commemorations This Week.

April 13 – Psalm 114; Judges 6:36-40; I Corinthians 15:12-20

April 14 – Psalm 114; Jonah 1:1-17; I Corinthians 15:19-28

April 15 – Psalm 114; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42

April 16 – Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; I Peter 1:8b-12

April 17 – Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 26:1-4; I Peter 1:13-16

April 18 – Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14



CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 13

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 5:30pm LIA (Lutherans in Action)
6:00pm Council

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 6:00pm PTL

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 1:00pm Grief Group
5:30pm Handbells
6:45pm Choir

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 7:00pm Astralis Ensemble Concert

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 9-Noon 2nd First Communion Workshop
10:00am Quilting

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

| SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 | | |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|
| ASSISTING IN WORSHIP | | |
| Assisting Minister | 8:15am | Cathie Dugan |
| | 10:30am | Chloe Meucci |
| Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>) | 10:30am | Linda Graffius |
| Lector (<i>1 needed</i>) | 10:30am | Karen Braendel |
| Altar Guild | 8:15am | Nancy Benacci |
| | 10:30am | Martha & Tom Klomp |
| Greeter | 8:15am | Vicky Blasco |
| | 10:30am | |
| Video Streaming | 10:30am | Nick Lang |
| Counters | 10:30am | Pat Bellingham, Jonathan Ulrich |
| Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>) | 10:30am | |

