

elcome to

Luther Memorial Church



27 JULY 2025

17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

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. Hymns are included in this bulletin, however if you need larger print, hymns may be found in the back of the red hymnal using the number 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.

~ There are **hand fans** available on the table by the pulpit. Please help yourself and remember to return after worship this morning.

+ + +

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE – "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor"

J. S. Bach, J. T. Krebs

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ONE: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

ALL: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.

In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.

Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 605

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 add - ed un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth of God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
 Music: LAFFERTY, Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

OPENING SENTENCE

Blessed be our God,
forever and ever. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰The Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." ²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you!

Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And the Lord said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

²⁹Again he spoke to the Lord, "Suppose forty are found there." The Lord answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then Abraham said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." The Lord answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹Abraham said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." The Lord answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then Abraham said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." The Lord answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 *(Sung in unison.)*



Psalms tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with [|] my whole heart;
before the gods I will [|] sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast [|] love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word a- [|] bove all things.**

³ When I called, you [|] answered me;
you increased my [|] strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise [|] you, O LORD,**
when they have heard the words [|] of your mouth.

⁵ They will sing of the ways [|] of the LORD,
that great is the glory [|] of the LORD.
⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares [|] for the lowly,**
perceiving the haughty [|] from afar.
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you [|] keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right [|] hand shall save me.
⁸ **You will make good your pur- [|] pose for me;**
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works [|] of your hands.

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in Christ, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In Christ also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with Christ in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. God set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ God disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in the cross. [¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² So Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” ⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to that friend at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set out.’ ⁷ And the friend answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though the friend will not get up and provide anything out of friendship, at

least because of the neighbor's persistence the friend will get up and provide whatever is needed. ⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.

SERMON

Pastor Gail

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 746

Our Father, God in Heaven Above



1 Our Fa - ther, God in heav'n a - bove, we pray, u - nit - ed
 2 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread; let ev - 'ry - one be
 3 In time of tri - al, res - cue us. Let your word give suc -
 4 A - men. Yes, yes, it shall be so! Build up our faith and

in your love: Your name be hal - lowed. Help us, Lord,
 clothed and fed. For - give our sins, as we for - give
 cess to us when, on our left and on our right,
 make it grow; be - set by doubt, help us be - lieve

in faith - ful - ness to keep your word. Your king - dom come; your
 when oth - ers hurt us as we live. Help us to dwell in
 temp - ta - tions chal - lenge us to fight. De - liv - er us from
 what here we ask we shall re - ceive. So, by your prom - ise,



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abridged; tr. hymnal version
 Music: VATER UNSER, V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

You are invited to kneel, sit, or stand as is your practice.

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. Draw near to Elizabeth and Michael, our bishops, and Kristen, our bishop-elect, in this season. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. Empower ministries and workers who seek to help in the midst of fires and floods of catastrophic proportions, especially Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. Grant peace, we pray, in mercy to those places who continue to cry out amid the song of bombs: Palestine, Iran, Ukraine, the United States, Russia, Israel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. Visit with your healing and wholeness those whose names and needs to lift up now: _____. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us, especially Johann, Heinrich, Georg, Mary, Martha, Olaf, and Bill. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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

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.

OFFERTORY – "Air"

A. Boely

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

OFFERING HYMN

ACS 1092

Thank You, Lord

 The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, each with a corresponding vocal line and piano accompaniment. The first part includes a four-part setting of the first verse, and the second part includes a four-part setting of the second verse.

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2 Been so good, been so good, been so
 3 Been my friend, been my friend, been my
 4 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord, love you,

Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 good, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 friend, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.

Text: Traditional

Music: THANK YOU, LORD, Traditional

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

*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.*

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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,

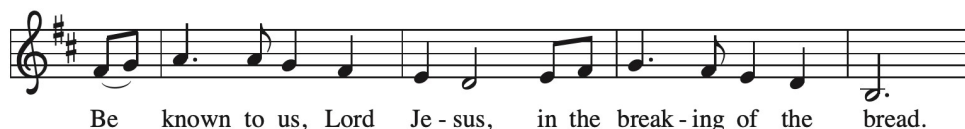
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM



INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Thanks be to God!

Those communing at home: take and eat, 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

ELW 495

We Who Once Were Dead



- 1 We who once were dead now live, ful - ly know - ing Je - sus
- 2 We were lost in night, but you sought and found us. Give us
- 3 He be - came our bread; Je - sus died to save us. On him
- 4 Let us share the pain you en - dured in dy - ing; we shall



as our head. Life is o - ver-flow - ing when he breaks the bread.
strength to fight; death is all a - round us. Je - sus, be our light.
we are fed, eat - ing what he gave us, ris - ing from the dead.
then re - main liv - ing; death de - fy - ing, we shall rise a - gain.

- 5 Jesus, you were dead,
but you rose and, living,
made yourself our bread,
in your goodness giving
life though we were dead.

- 6 This is your design;
in this meal we meet you.
Be our bread and wine,
Jesus, we entreat you.
This shall be our sign.

Text: Muus Jacobse, 1909–1972; tr. composite
Music: MIDDEN IN DE DOOD, Rik Veclenturf, b. 1936
Text and music © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV., Baarn, The Netherlands. All rights reserved. Exclusive
agent for English-language countries: OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

It's Me, O Lord

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Refrain

It's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer;

it's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

1 Not my broth-er, not my sis-ter, but it's me, O Lord,
 2 Not the preach-er, not the dea-con, but it's me, O Lord,
 3 Not my fa-ther, not my moth-er, but it's me, O Lord,
 4 Not the strang-er, not my neigh-bor, but it's me, O Lord,

stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my broth-er, not my sis-ter, but it's
 stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the preach-er, not the dea-con, but it's
 stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my fa-ther, not my moth-er, but it's
 stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the strang-er, not my neigh-bor, but it's

Refrain

me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN


ELW 484

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart *Gift of Finest Wheat*


Refrain



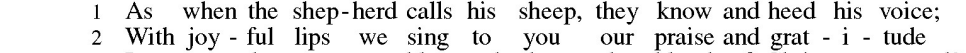
You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



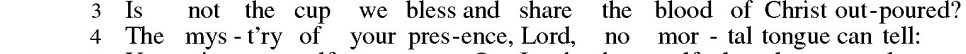
Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.




1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;




2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude



3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?

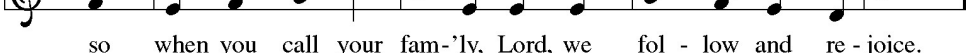


4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:

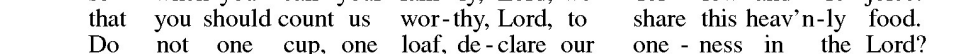


5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

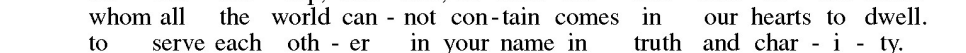
Refrain



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.



that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.



Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?

whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Rev. Gail Zackrison

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Tom Klomp

LECTOR – Jonathan Ulrich

USHERS – Mary Daniels, Carl Moore, Mary Mumford, Betty Pletz

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Sarah Prylinski



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our children and grandchildren by Martha and Tom Klomp.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in lasting and loving memory of my husband, Bill, by Janet Kent.

Worship Matters!

What is the purpose of a hymn? There are a multitude of types and genres of music that we share in worship together. We listen, we sing, we chant, we hum, we play, we clap, we tap our toes, we sway and dance. All of it is holy and good. Music has always been important to the Church and during the Reformation it became that much more important for many sects of the faithful. Luther himself used hymnody and music as a way to teach. Our Hymn of the Day this morning is one such hymn.

Hymns are a specific kind of music the Church uses to proclamation, praise, or prayer. It is a piece of music meant for the whole assembly to sing. It is addressed to God when we are using it for prayer and praise. It can be addressed (formally or informally) to others when we are proclaiming the Good News via song. Indeed, the Hymn of the Day which we sing after the sermon is a particularity of the Lutheran liturgy and the rubric is important. After the preaching, we “stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.” Our Hymn of the Day this morning, *Our Father, God in Heaven Above* blurs some lines. It is a prayer, absolutely. It is addressed to God. It is entirely based on the Lord’s Prayer. It is, though, also a teaching hymn. In praying the Lord’s Prayer it also expounds on what each petition of the prayer means. Luther wrote such hymns to teach his congregations about the central things of our faith (*We All Believe in One True God* which is also found in our hymnals is his version of the Nicene Creed). This morning we sing the “abridged” version of this hymn. Pick up a red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and check out 746 and 747. The original version of this hymn was *at least* 9 verses long. Luther was never known for brevity!

As we sing this morning, let us pray but let us also listen to what we are singing as it expounds this central prayer of our faith for us.

Faith Formation Calendar 2025C-2026A

Catechism is getting a revamp! It seems like there has been a change every year since Pastor Jay has gotten here. And there has. But there has also been much in flux about ConfirCamp and other programming. A general schedule has been set: For students 7th grade through 9th grade, there will be four workshops offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: November, January, March, May) 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.

Faith Formation Calendars for adults are available in hard copy on the Welcome Table near the Ramp Door. There are also electronic copies on the Facebook page and linked to the newsletters in August. Check out all the opportunities to gather for Adult Forum, Brown Bag Bible, and Bible After Dark (BAD) every month! The schedule will be slightly different this year for some, and there are resources available for others. So check it out now and let the church office know if you need to put in a reservation for any of the resources!

Trouble in Today's Texts

“How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin!” This morning's First Reading comes just before the much more widely known (and quoted) story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. We must remember what exactly is being talked about here in this story: First, the sin is known before anything happens in Sodom. Second, God relents from punishing for the sake of Lot and his family. Third, the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is not what many people often credit. Rather, there is no distinct sin named in Genesis. However, according to the prophet Ezekiel the sins are named quite bluntly: “This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did abominable things before me; therefore I removed them when I saw it.” (Ezekiel 16:49-50) There is something for us to consider in the 21st century when we speak of the sin of Sodom. It is pride, excess, and haughtiness. These in and of themselves are numerous called abominations by God throughout scripture. Additionally, they did nothing for the poor and those in need. Isaiah 3 seems to confirm this “It is you [who are like Sodom] who have devoured the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?” says the Lord God of hosts.”

This week, however, we are not called to focus on the sin of Sodom (though that is how the reading starts) but rather on the prayerful relationship between God and Abraham. Abraham is able to haggle with God, to explain and ask and argue...**and receive**. And that is a beautiful thing we are called to remember. Just something to ponder this week.

Outreach Offerings

Giving offerings to outreach ministries allows Luther Memorial to support vital work beyond our church walls, like serving those in need and spreading the gospel. It enables us to fulfill our mission of serving God and others by funding programs that improve lives, both physically and spiritually. On Sunday, August 31 our offering will be donated to Global Refuge (globalrefuge.org).

Opportunities for Fellowship

Family Beach Night and our L. I. A. gathering will be Tuesday, August 12 from 5:30-7:00pm. We will meet at the Stull Nature Center beach area. Bring your chair, towel, blanket and toys for a fun evening of building sand castles and playing spike ball. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

OWLS road trip to Ferrante's Winery and Ristorante in Geneva, Ohio (5585 N. River West) is set for Wednesday, August 13. Luncheon reservations are for 12 noon. The drive is approximately 1 ½ hours. Reservations are due to Jan MacInnes or the church office by Friday, August 8. If you are interested in carpooling, please let Jan know.

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; August 12 and August 26. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Youth

Flea Markets are held in our parking area (rain or shine) the third Saturday of the month through September 20. Set-up begins at 8:00am with shopping held from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Cost of a parking space is \$10 so load your car with unwanted treasures and come on down to park and sell. Please see Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski for more information.

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.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Walt Gaber	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Dolores Koscinski
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Carol Steffey & Marissa	Sandy M.	Ron Lester	Sherry Giles
Phil Nagy	Henderson family	Carol Johnson	Kate Collins
Grief:			
Marilyn Bohn family	Lois Fobes family	Woodard family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

Readings and Commemoration This Week

July 28 – Johann Sebastian Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schutz, 1672; George Frederick Handel, 1759; musicians and hymnwriters – Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 5:1-14; Colossians 2:16-3:1 -- *These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.*

July 29 – Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany OR Olaf, King of Norward, martyr, 1030 – Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 6:1-7:6; Romans 9:30-10:4 -- *Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come. OR Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.*

July 30 – Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 7:7-8:17; Matthew 5:43-48

July 31 – Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 23:1-11; Romans 11:33-36

August 1 – Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 24:1-12; Ephesians 4:17-24

August 2 – Psalm 49:1-12; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Mark 10:17-22



ERIE GIVES DAY 2025

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP A NON-PROFIT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 8:00AM – 8:00PM
12 HOURS OF GIVING

NEW! The Erie Community Foundation and our community partners will cover ALL online fees
AND sponsor the Bonus Bucks (Prorated Match Pool)!

Day and Time: The online event takes place on August 12. You have 12 hours to make your donation between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm.

Participating Nonprofits: Your organization must be a 501(c)(3), serve Erie County and either be a member of [The Nonprofit Partnership](#) or have an Agency Endowment with the Erie Community Foundation to participate in Erie Gives. **Luther Memorial Church, Luther Memorial Academy and Bethany Outreach Center appreciate your support.**

Gift Amount: The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give. There is no limit to the number of organizations you can donate to in a transaction.

Making a Donation: Simply log on to www.eriegives.org or call the Erie Community Foundation at 814-454-0843.

Credit Cards: Only Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover will be accepted. The credit card processor charges a nominal fee per transaction. The Erie Community Foundation does not receive any fees. Debit cards will also be accepted. (Credit card gift cards will not be accepted.)

Checks: Donors can write a check for their Erie Gives donation.

- Checks must be made out to The Erie Community Foundation;
- All check donations must be accompanied by a Check Donation Form. The Check Donation Form is available for download and included with this newsletter. A Check Donation Form can also be mailed to you by contacting the Foundation or our church office;
- Checks must be delivered to The Erie Community Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507) before Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Prorated Match: The Erie Community Foundation and our sponsors will enhance each donor's gift by providing a prorated match to each gift made to a nonprofit.

Your Receipt: You will receive an email receipt of your gift; please retain it for tax purposes. Unless you choose to remain anonymous, your donor information will be sent to the appropriate organizations.

ERIE GIVES CHECK CONTRIBUTION FORM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFITS ON ERIE GIVES!
A \$25 MINIMUM DONATION PER ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR CHECKS, STOCK GIFTS, OR IRA DISTRIBUTIONS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO 459 WEST 6TH STREET, ERIE, PA 16507 BY **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025.**



First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ State (Abbreviated): _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

To ensure a quick and accurate process, please clearly provide your email address — you will receive an emailed receipt for your donation.

Check Number: _____ Contribution Total \$: 0

Please list how you wish to be identified:

Example: Jayne & John Doe | John Doe | Anonymous

Erie Gives Nonprofit(s) Name(s) from ErieGives.org	Gift Amount
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TOTAL	0

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: ___ Mail ___ In-person ___ Verified ___ Entered ___ Stock ___ IRA ___

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JULY 28

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Newsletter Mailing

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

THURSDAY, JULY 31

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Floors and carpets will be cleaned during the week.
Please contact the church office if you would like to stop down. Thank you.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025 **THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistants (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Ken Kraut, Gail Zackrison
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Cathy Beck, Mary Daniels. Linda Graffius, Carl Moore

