

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



21 JANUARY 2024
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
10:30 am

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

21 JANUARY 2024

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Holy Communion • Of the Land and Seasons • 10:30

Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

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

PRELUDE – Partita on "Thy Strong Word"

John A. Behnke

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have rejected your discipline. We have avoided your pruning of our cluttered lives. We have failed to maintain the tools of stewardship, outreach, and witness you have provided for the nurture of your church. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, train us, and redirect us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. ►

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore proclaim to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

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

GATHERING SONG

ELW 511

Thy Strong Word



- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

- 5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!
- 6 God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

GREETING

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

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray
- C** God, our vinedresser, you train and discipline us as faithful growers do their orchards and loving parents do their children. Prune our lives of all that would cause us to be weak and unproductive, make open the way that our fruit may grow in your light, and strengthen our bond to the true vine, that we may grow in the ways of your statutes and commands, bearing fruit that is abundant and pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

FIRST READING:

A Reading from Jonah 3:1-5,10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

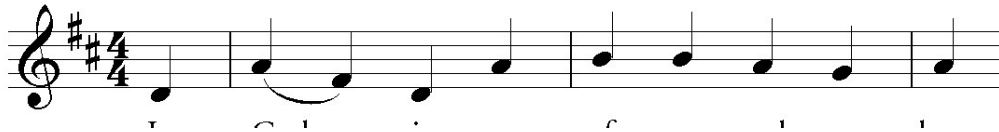
¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 62:6-14

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



⁶For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in him.

⁷He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

⁸In God is my safety and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁹Put your trust in him always, O people,
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. **R**

¹⁰Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

¹¹On the scales they are lighter than a breath,
all of them together.

¹²Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹³God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹⁴Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,
for you repay everyone according to his deeds. **R**

SECOND READING:

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GRADUAL HYMN

Please stand to welcome the gospel, singing this hymn.

1 O God, whose word well-plant ed yields fruit a hun-dred-
2 O God of seed and har vest, of sun and soil and
3 O God, your fi - nal har- vest of his - t'ry's an - cient

fold, we praise your grac - es grant - ed to
rain, at - tend the word we sow, lest its
field will test with truth the proud - est that

those who sowed of old, who by their wit - ness
plant - ing be in vain. Send show - ers of your
hu - man work can yield. Op - pres - sion's blight will

scat - tered good seed up - on the soil where
Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace, that
van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease; and

oth - ers, reap - ing, gath ered the har - vest of their toil.
mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 799

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
 2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -

bid - ing; de - ny your - selves, the world for - sake, o -
 play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
 va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
 point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in

bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
 keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the

e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
 well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
 of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.
 Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, 1555–1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586–1630

APOSTLE'S CREED

A Let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

C receive our prayer. ▶

A Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

ANTHEM – “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

Robert Lowry

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.*

Refrain

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you, Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Gracious God

You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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. With gentle hands you prune and shape your people, by cutting away that which is dead to you, or would keep the warmth of your light from us. You graft us into the true vine, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, that he may abide in us and we in him. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.



1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes__
3 Oh, what a sight it___ was to see and__



scrip - tures__ do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing__ through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts



tem - ple__ came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and__ quaked, and smoke was in the air.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills all heav'n and__ earth, God of pow - er and might.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☐ Blessed are you, O Lord, for creation:
When all was formless and void,
you sent your Spirit to brood over chaos,
preparing it for the dawning of light and life.
Blessed are you, O Lord, for your election of Israel:
throughout the ages you have shown your love
by rescuing your people,
forming them to be your treasure among the nations.

Blessed are you, O Lord, for the incarnation of your Son:
for he is the true vine, through whom you give us,
his branches, the life of your grace.

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.

With this bread and cup, then, we remember him,
His birth and baptism;
his call of the disciples,
and his training of them by hard words and consolation;
his acceptance of punishment on our behalf, and his sharing of our death;
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and his promise to be present with us as teacher and host,
so that his joy may be in us and that our joy may be complete.

Send your Spirit upon this meal and all who share it.
As you have united us with your Son, unite us with each other.
Prune what is wayward; heal what is out of joint;
and make us pursue peace and holiness.

In your Spirit, through your Son,
with your people of every time and place
we give you thanks and praise,
offering all the fruits of our heart, our soul,
our mind, and our strength, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**



C Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us;
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- C** Amen.
- P** Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

COMMUNION

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

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

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

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

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 DISTRIBUTION

ELW 479

We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

We Sing Your Praise Through Winter's Night



1 We__ sing your__ praise through win - ter's__ night, when
2 We__ praise the__ Fa - ther, praise the__ Son, and__



earth in__ fro - zen si - lence lies, for__
praise the__ Spir - it, with the thron__ of__



prom - ise__ of__ re - turn - ing__ light, for__
saints and__ an - gels, joined as__ one in__



life in Christ that ne - ver dies.
grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

Please stand as you are able.

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 CANTICLE

1 O Lord of the blos som, O God of the seed, O gra - cious pro -
2 O Lord of the har - vest, O God of the feast, where sor - rows are

vi - der for all hu - man need, you havenour - ished our faith at your
van - quished and joys are in - creased, where the tree of life grows in your

ta - ble of grace, and nur - tured new life in the light of your
or - chards a - bove, we'll join in the cho - rus in praise of your

face, O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the
love. Sing praise to the Fa - ther, sing praise to the

vine, you've fed us your pres - ence in bread and in
Son, sing praise to the Spir - it. Praise God, Three in

wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest to us ar - bor and
One! You have made us one peo - ple you've fed by the

plow, and shown us the gos - pel, your word for us now.
hand, O Lord of the heav - ens, O God of the land.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Let us pray,
Gracious God, we give you thanks for your pruning, planting and nurture.
We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us.
Lead us as we go from this life giving meal into lives of grateful service to you
and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
- ☑ Amen.

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

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P ...remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 540

Go, Make Disciples



“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. You are God’s beloved!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “Thy Strong Word”

arr. Healey Willan

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

GREETER – Pat Young

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Kate Martin

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTOR – Linda Melaragno

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Mary Daniels, Richelle Denning, Dave Griswold

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Ralph W. Shaner, Jr., by his daughter, Sally Shaner-McAfee.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our dad, William E. Becker, on his 100th heavenly birthday today by Sally Allen and Nancy and Rob Benacci.

Today's Events

Offering envelopes for 2024 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

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

Worship

Our prelude begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

A reminder that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 28, and paper copies will be available to the congregation.

Altar flowers are available for Sunday, February 4. Please contact the church office if you would like to have flowers at the altar on that Sunday. Thank you.

Ash Wednesday worship services will be held in our main church on February 14 at 10:00am and 7:00pm. Ashes will also be given throughout the day for those who would like them.

Christian Education

First Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, April 14, 2024 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 6 and April 13 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. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

Ecumenical Worship

We invite you to attend the Ecumenical Service in Celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held at Luther Memorial Church on Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30pm. A ministry faire and reception will be held following. Anyone interested in participating in the combined choir is asked to contact our church office. Thank you.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org. This week, Pastor Jay is available Monday, January 22 from 8-9 @ Pressed Coffee (8th and Greengarden) or by appointment.

Opportunities for Fellowship

“Souper” Bowl Tasting event will be held Sunday, February 4 in fellowship hall following the 10:30am service. All are invited to whip up a batch of their favorite soup for all to have a taste and enjoy. Soup may be taken to fellowship hall in the morning to keep warm. If you'd like to share your recipe, please bring along some copies. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for planning this fellowship time.

Magic Fingers Grace Group continues to spend wonderful mornings together knitting, crocheting, and being creative with needlepoint, cross-stitch and more. Join them the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month; January 23, February 13 and 27 from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Faith Formation

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will be held on February 7 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. Our evenings are a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather with folks from Mt. Calvary to share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Due to gatherings offered in Lent and Easter our next get-together will be May 1.

Donations Needed

Saturday mornings have been creative for many of our quilters who have been making quilts for Bethesda Women's Center and local shelters. Quilts made are for children and adults. To assist them they are in need of some items such as portable table-top ironing boards and irons. Donations may be dropped off in the church office or with Jan MacInnes. Thank you.

Youth News

Movie Night will be held for all youth in grades 6-12 on Friday, January 26 from 5:30-9:30pm. Our theme will be Pirates of the Carribean with a great night of fun, snacks, games and laughter. Please contact the church office, Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski if you plan to attend.

Lenten Preparations

Do you have your palms from last year? Did you know that the former year's palms are used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday of the next year? Please bring your old palms (from any year) into church and/or the office any time before Sunday, February 11! A basket will be on the Welcome Table near the ramp entrance. We will be using them to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

Tuesday, February 13 is Shrove Tuesday (some know it as Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday"). We will celebrate with a fundraiser for our youth: a Pancake Supper will be held from 5:30 – 7:00pm in our fellowship hall. Join us for a delicious meal as we celebrate Mardi Gras. Cost is \$8/adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will benefit our youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2024.

Lenten Luncheons will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. Help is always appreciated and anyone interested in lending a hand with cooking, serving and/or clean-up may contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office. **A Lenten luncheon planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 11:00am in the parlor.**

Items to Note

In case of an emergency and unable to reach Pastor Jay, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

Readings and Commemorations This Week

January 21 – Agnes, martyr, c. 304 – Song of Solomon 2:10-13; Psalm 45:11-16; Matthew 18:1-6 -- *Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.*

January 22 – Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; I Corinthians 7:17-42

January 23 – Psalm 46; Genesis 45:35-46:7; Acts 5:33-42

January 24 – Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a

January 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends* – Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 67; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 21:10-19 -- *The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.*

January 26 – Timothy, Titus, Silas, missionaries – II Timothy 1:1-8; Titus 1:1-5; Psalm 112:1-9; John 10:1-10 -- *These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.*

January 27 – Lydia, Dorcas, Phoebe, witness to the faith – Sirach 2:7-11; Psalm 1; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:1-13 -- *Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchræe.*

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Ann Flick	Rose-Marie Rose
Phil McAfee			

Friends and Family:

Mitchell & family	Jean C.	Jeannette Bowers	Ian Minner
Carol E.	John Semonis	Jeff Granger & family	Nick
Paul Gustafson	Melissa	Jim Berger	Jane Rose
Allison, Audree & family	Melissa Pierce	Scot & Robin	Janice Carpenter
Cindy B.	Scott Cowan	Suzie Hosterman	Lorraine Melms
Doug & Jenine	Doug Blum	Jonah Allgeier	Melanie Benn
Pam (Battersby) Latronca	Marky Stein	Louise Seth	

Grief:

Jessica & Matt Kinzig & family	Family of baby Mitchell
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Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
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