

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



12 DECEMBER 2021
The Third Sunday in Advent

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. ROY WASHILL

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL

Academy Administrator



12 DECEMBER 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Three • 8:15 & 10:30

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

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

PRELUDE – "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"
"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Kevin J. Sadowski
Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. LUCIA STORY

Eric Hedlund

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (10:30 am service)

arr. Hart Morris

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lutheran Book of Worship

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P God for whom we wait,
C in the presence of one another,
 we confess our sin before you.
 We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
 We falter in our call to tend your creation.
 We find our sense of self in material wealth.
 We fear those different from ourselves.
 We forget that we are your children
 and turn away from your love.
 Forgive us, Blessed One,
 and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
 Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
 † your sins are forgiven.
 You are children of the Most High,
 inheritors of the eternal promise,
 and recipients of divine mercy.
 God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
C Amen.

This hymn text is the work of a Swedish pastor (later bishop) who was elected to the Swedish Academy for his work as a poet. The melody was included in the tune edition of Sweden's 1695 Psalm book, though the form used here is from the 1939 Koralbok.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(Swedish Advent Hymn)

Prepare the Royal Highway



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



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



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



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


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

GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:14

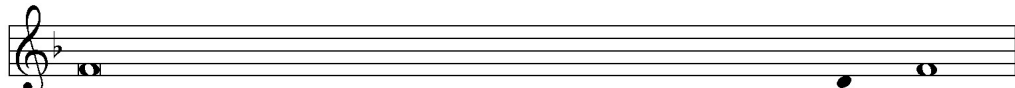
P From the one who is and who was and who will come,
and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection,
grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.


KYRIE Luke 17:13



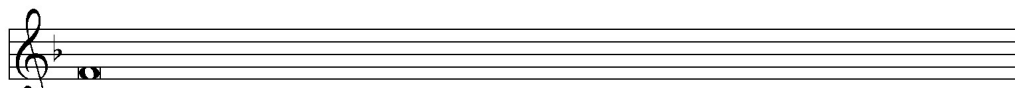
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



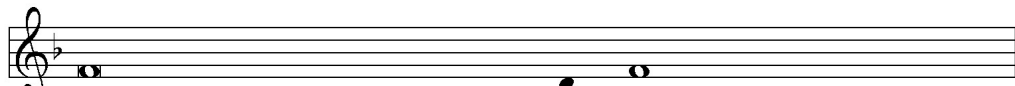
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



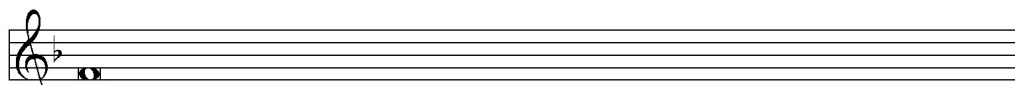
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



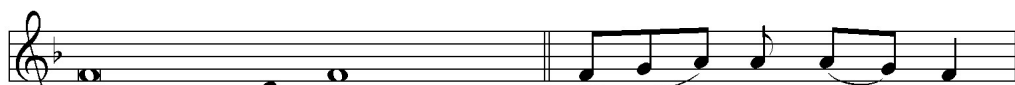
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Ruth 2:4*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Les Fobes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.



8:15 The third candle of the Advent Wreath will be lit by Pam Masiroff; prayer by Jan MacInnes.

10:30 The third candle of the Advent Wreath will be lit by Elvin & Maureen Montero; prayer by Aiden Montero.

ELW 715

Christ, Be Our Light

A musical score for the hymn 'Christ, Be Our Light'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: '3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.



Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
 shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
 O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
 he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
 you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
 Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
 a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
 he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
 at that time.

And I will save the lame
 and gather the outcast,
 and I will change their shame into praise
 and renown in all the earth.

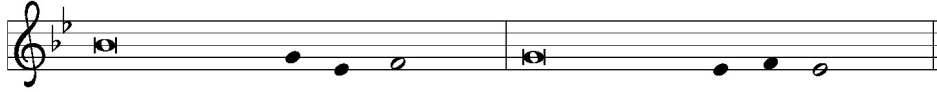


²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6 (*sung in alternation*) (8:15 am Service)



²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

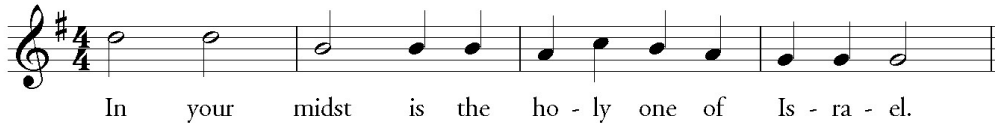
⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6 (10:30 am Service)

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



²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **R**

⁴And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**



Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Lundwall

Please stand as you are able.

Based on Matthew 25:1-14, this hymn text is the work of one of the best hymn-writers of the Pietistic period.
The hymn tune is a Swedish folk melody, associated with the Swedish version of this hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(Swedish Advent Hymn)

ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring's bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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 him 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 and the Son,
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 PRAYERS *1 Timothy 2:1*

A In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Empower us to be witnesses to the light of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. May our Luther Memorial and Luther Memorial Academy children grow strong in their faith in your abiding love for them. Comfort all who are lonely or grieving a first holiday without a loved one. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians, especially our cantor, Walt Gaber, the choir and the handbell choir, instrumentalists and dancers. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You guide us in all times of our lives. In this time of pastoral transition at Luther Memorial Church, strengthen all congregational members, leaders, and the Call Committee to hold firmly onto the promises of the Gospel, and continually give this congregation your wisdom and guidance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



A We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace; Pastor Roy Washill, Pastor Albert Gesler, Harry Johnson, Alan Johnson and Richard Thorn. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.** *Romans 16:16*

Please be seated.

VOLUNTARY – "People, Look East" (8:15 am Service)

Dale Wood

ANTHEM – "Santa Lucia" (10:30 am Service)

(St. Lucia Youth & Luther Memorial Choir)

MEAL – "God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ."

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Matthew 21:9*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

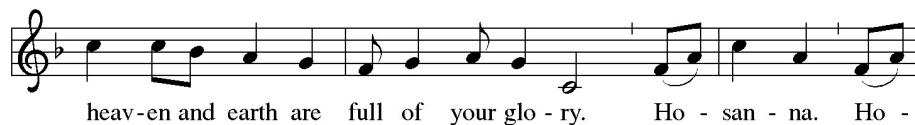
P Lift up your hearts.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

☐ Amen.



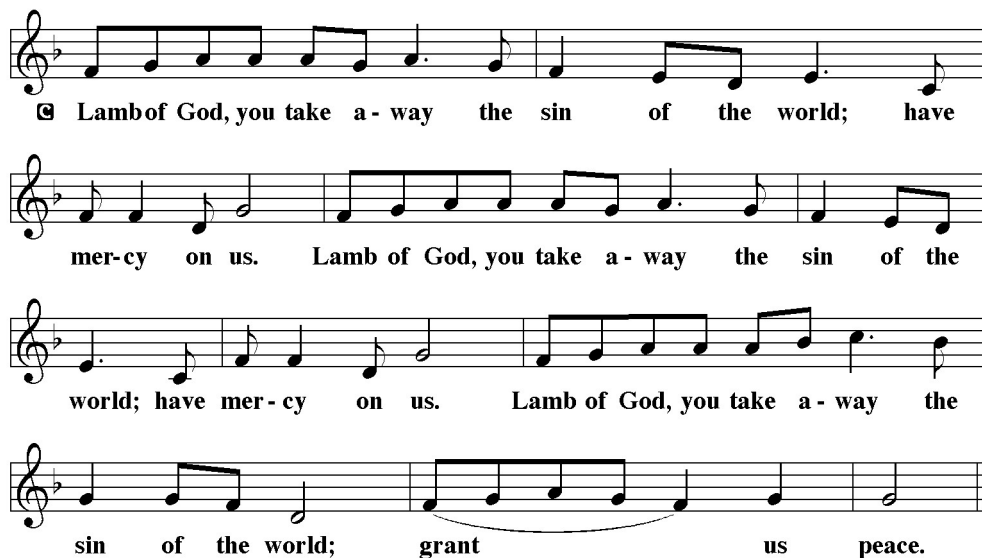
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **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. *Matthew 6:9***

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.
(10:30 am Service)

The congregation is seated.

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

Please come forward by the center aisle and maintain appropriate physical distancing.

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

Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it

are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray.

Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

COMMUNION *John 1:29*

The author of this hymn text is, after Luther, considered the most gifted and popular of German Lutheran hymn-writers. The tune was composed for the text by one of the most distinguished musicians of his day.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 241

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

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

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
☑ Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
☑ Amen.

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

BLESSING

- ☐ The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
☑ Amen.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look





east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Christ is near.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "People, Look East"

Michael Barker, Kristina Langlois

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING – Pastor Karen Lundwall
ACOLYTES – Mitch & Gabe Stroup (10:30 am)
ASSISTING MINISTERS – Jan MacInnes (8:15 am)
 Liz Stroup (10:30 am)
FIRST READING – Grace Graffius (10:30 am)
SECOND READING – Jack Bartlett (10:30 am)
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Daniels, Ann Flick (10:30 am)



St. Lucia Participants

<i>LUCIA</i>	Grace Graffius	
<i>STAR BOY</i>	Tommy Willis	
<i>ATTENDANTS</i>	Becca Brown	Allison Brown
	Ella Graffius	Mari Graffius
	Anna Szewczykowski	
<i>SWEDISH GIRLS</i>	Tessa Bartlett	Cecilia Montroy
	Magnolia Ozgurgil	Leah Szewczykowski
<i>BAKER BOY</i>	Lincoln McCall	
<i>SWEDISH BOYS</i>	Jack Bartlett	Elijah Montroy
	Noah Montroy	



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Harry Johnson, whose birthday is on December 14, and my son, Alan Johnson, by Marjorie.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Richard Thorn who died Friday, December 3. Richard is the father of Cathie Dugan and grandfather of Keri Cooney and Molly Gaber.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Pastor Albert Gesler who died Sunday, December 5.

Today's Events

St. Lucia Festival will be celebrated during our 10:30 worship service this morning. Our worship service will include traditional songs of the St. Lucia Festival. Thank you to our children for taking part in this traditional Swedish celebration. Thank you to Lynnette Gustafson for planning this program and practicing with our children and youth.

ReCharge contemporary service will be held this afternoon. All are invited to take part in festive Christmas activities and delicious meal at 4:00pm. Our Christmas worship will be held from 5:00-6:00pm.

Offering envelopes for 2022 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.

The people of Luther Memorial Church were asked on Christ the King Sunday, November 21, to take the opportunity to make their financial commitments to this ministry for the year 2022. Church Council are so thankful and very aware of how blessed we are that you continue to support this ministry with your time, talents and treasure. It is so important for all members to make your financial commitments for 2022, as it will be very helpful for our planning and budget purposes. Additional commitment cards are available in the church office.

Pictures are being taken for a new Pictorial Directory. Many have not yet had their picture taken and we hope that you will stop down to the church, email or text a picture to us.

- Pictures will be taken during the week from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Please stop in our church office and Norma will meet with you to take your picture.
- We also welcome you to email or text pictures. Pictures may be texted to 814-450-7162 or emailed to nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org.

Next Sunday Worship

Our Christmas pageant will be presented during the 10:30 worship service next Sunday, December 19. Please join us as our families participate in a wonderful celebration of Christmas.

Christian Education

Children's Church classes are held Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15am in the classroom next to fellowship hall. Masks are worn and all safety protocols are followed. We hope to see many of our children join us. Our class schedule is as follows:

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – first Sunday of the month (not meeting in January)
- Grades 1-3 – second Sunday of the month (**December 12**)
- LYO – third Sunday of the month (December 19)
- Grades 4-6 – fourth Sunday of the month (January 23; will not gather in December)

Music

Next **Sunday, December 19**, the Luther Memorial Concert Series will present another **Sunday Morning Mini-Concert**. In the new format, soloists and small ensembles present special music for the Prelude and Voluntary about once a month. **Barb Moore** will be our performer and will present several **flute and handbell** Advent & Christmas solos. In subsequent months, we will hear other musicians from within our congregation. Plan to be in your seats early enough to hear the full 10-12 minute prelude on each of these Sundays. Finally, "thank you" to all who support the LM Concert Series through your donations, attendance and words of support.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group will have you feeling very jolly when you join us for those knitting and yarn projects. We hope to see you on Tuesday, December 14! Join us from 10:00am – 12:00 noon the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month to get creative. Masks are worn and safe distancing protocol is followed. Please contact Norma in the church office or Jan MacInnes with any questions, 454-0106.

OWLS Christmas gathering will be held Wednesday, December 15 from 11:30am – 1:30pm in our church parlor. Come prepared for lots of fun and a festive luncheon. In lieu of our White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a \$5 contribution which will be used to purchase items for those in need. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or the church office by Wednesday, December 8.

Outreach

Family Christmas dinner will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18th and Walnut Street. This will be the 23rd year that St. Matthew's began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need, and we now share in that Christmas spirit. Cookies are needed for dessert. If you would like to bake cookies, please drop these off in the church office by Wednesday morning, December 15. Thank you.

New adult men's underwear and long johns will be collected through December 19. All items will be distributed to local shelters. Items may be placed in the box marked "Shelter Collection" located in the parlor hall. Thank you.

Youth Outreach

All youth are encouraged to join us on Saturday, December 18 from 8:30-11:30am at Bethany Outreach Center to help with food distribution. C'mon down and help share some Christmas joy. Please contact Sarah Prylinski at 882-1695 if you will be attending. Dress warmly, and remember, this project will earn service hours for you.

Christmas Preparations

Mitten Tree is ready for decorating with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. These items will be used by the Bethany Outreach Center to give some extra warmth to many during the cold winter months. Blankets are also appreciated and may be placed under the tree. Thank you.

Luther Memorial Church and Luther Memorial Academy invite you to enjoy a Christmas Wonderland Drive-thru in our parking lot during the evening on Wednesday, December 15 from 6:30-7:30pm. We welcome everyone to stop down, enjoy all the decorations and get that wonderful Christmas feeling. If you have extra lights or large outdoor decorations you would like to donate for our Wonderland, please drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

In Case of Emergency

In case of an emergency 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.

Scheduling Ahead

Desk calendars for 2022, compliments of Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are available at the hospitality tables. Please take a few for your 2022 schedules.

Luther Memorial Church Policy – Following the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines

In accordance with the Pennsylvania mask mandate in place, it is necessary for all those worshipping at Luther Memorial Church wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. We continue to respect your choice for physical distancing. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Friday, December 24, 2021
Main Church

- 5:45 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER
- 6:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY
CANDLELIGHT AND HOLY COMMUNION
- 10:15 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER
- 10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CANDLELIGHT AND HOLY COMMUNION

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



C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13	6:00pm	LMA Legos
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14	10:00am 6:00pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group Council
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15	11:30am 3:00pm 6:30pm	OWLS School Board Christmas Wonderland Drive-thru
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16	6:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Handbells LMA Legos Choir
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17	11:30am	LMA Dismissal
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18	9:00am	Cheer Basket Assembly

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Michael Snider will preach at the 8:15am and 10:30am services in the main church. The 10:30am service is live streamed on our church YouTube Channel; go to YouTube, in the search bar type in "Luther Memorial Church, Erie, PA". Subscribe to the channel.

The recorded service is also available on Luther Memorial Church's website at www.luthermemorialonline.org by clicking on the tabs of "Resources & Online Worship" and "Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study".

Christmas pageant will be presented at the 10:30am service.

Confirmation Class and LYO will be held from 9:30-10:15am.

Homemade soup will be on sale following the 10:30am service.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Sarah Prylinski	Dorothy Overberg	Judy Crissman	Cathy MacGregor
Mike Daniels	Dorothy Respecki	Roy Washill	Bill Grande
Tim Houston	David Ruler	Jessica Copfer	Peyton Thomas
Joyce Zwilling	Mark Howell	Laura Beth Kraut	Shirley Brown
Lois Fobes	Suzanne Franks	Linda Soles	Mark Lechner
Rosanne & Roy Strausbaugh	Dave Mumford	Kathy & Ken Kraut	Nancy Downey
Julie & A. J. Chandler			

Friends and Family:

Cecily DeMille	Patty Chadwick	Bob Sadowski	Bobbi MacInnes
Frank Nalepa	Kristen	Larry E.	Kirsten Braley
Roger Maki	Amy Valentine	Jesse McFadden	Abby
John & Naomi Howard	Ed Hokaj	Elijah Montero	Ray Polasky
Marianella	Linda Grimm	Gayle Rumbaugh	Shelly
Kim Robertson	Edna Pett	Bea Becknell	Shaffer family
Josie W.	Jeff F.	Kimberly Ferry	Juan Esparza
Amanda, Joe & Mitchell S.	Clarice Moore	Don Ingraham	Bob Guenther
Linda & Woody F.	Julie Pond	David	Debbie S.
Steven & Ally Soltesz	Paul Spierling	Frank S.	Mitch Dougan
Mike Cesnick & family	Ben Young	Pamela Hagele	Pam Torrelli
Chet & Pam W.	Bill	John Shafer	Norman Jensen
N. S.	Aiden Mack	Marie Checkley	Kim Hunkins
Tom Ridge	Ethan Polasky	Julie	Betsy
Laurie, Eric & family	Tom Kraut	Kayley Prinzi	Amy
Brandon Jones	Bruce Elfvin	Clarence Chase	Dick Lechner
Christian	Karen Botwright	Jeff F.	Sue Kuhn
Brandon & Stacey Campbell	Paula and Chet Bixby	Pete Battersby	Sue Gerke
Tom McGrail	Kathryn P.	Dr. Carl Seon	Sam Ruma
Missy & Jeff	Sue Agens	Sophia	Lesley
Jim Haskins	Dennis Chevalier	Patrick L	Paula Bauda
Marilyn Schultz	Ron Trisket	Sidney	Loraine Pond
Allison & Erick	Bryan & Bev	Judy Oosterkamp	Marianella
Carolyn & Viktor Soder	Meghan Kessler	Dorothy McCarty	Jim Schumacher
Bishop Michael Lozano	Lucas Smith	Steve & Leah W.	Scott Respecki
Noni Bennett	Ashlynn Rowane		

Grief:

Kevin Kraut family	Al Latronica family	Robert Peterson family	Betit family
Pastor Al Gesler family	Richard Thorn family		

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson
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