

WELCOME TO
**LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & ACADEMY**



20 SEPTEMBER 2026
25th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Season of Creation: Wilderness
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

LMA Principal

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

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

WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

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

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

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

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

+ You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshiping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.

+ We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

+ + +

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE – "Two Pieces"
"Cantabile"
"Andante"

N. Rawsthorne

The assembly may rise in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ONE: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our hope, our heart, our home.

ALL: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,

**we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.**

**We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.**

**Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of + Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. **Amen.**

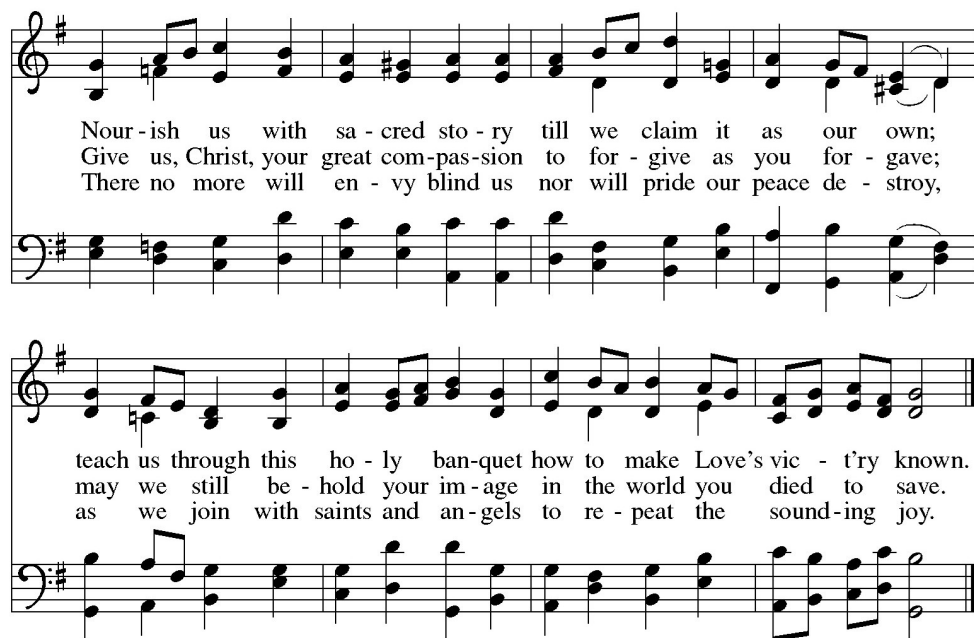
GATHERING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,
teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

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

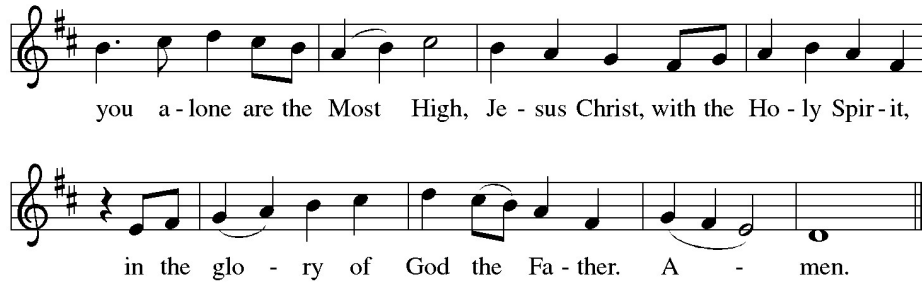
GLORIA

♪ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people 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,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept as all join in silent prayer. The presiding minister, on behalf of all, prays:

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the wonders of the wild in wilderness areas. Help us to be in solidarity with your wilderness creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the wild world of the wilderness. We ask this in the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

WORD

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

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:18-21

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 29

The psalm is chanted responsively according to the Tone 24.



Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

**the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

The voice | of the Lord
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

**The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, “Glory!”

**The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

O Lord, give strength | to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:18-27

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The assembly may rise in body or spirit to greet the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-4:2

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, the assembly rises in body or spirit to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a weary world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a weary world when crea-tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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APOSTLES' CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly shares a sign and greeting of peace. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch.

After, the assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING



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

MUSICAL OFFERING – "Menuet"

N. Rawsthorne

The assembly may rise in body or spirit as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY CANTICLE

The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in a simple, flowing style. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the corresponding syllables. The text is: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come." The final note of the piece is a whole note G in the fifth staff.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

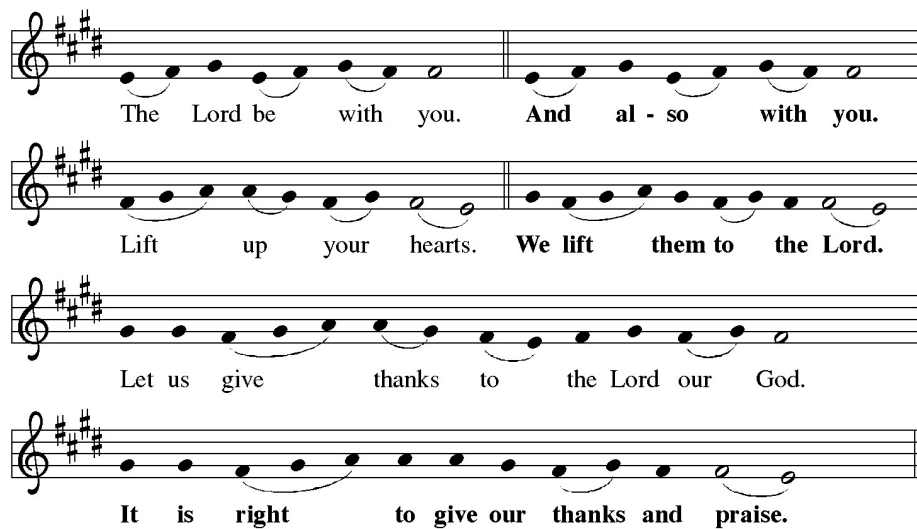
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

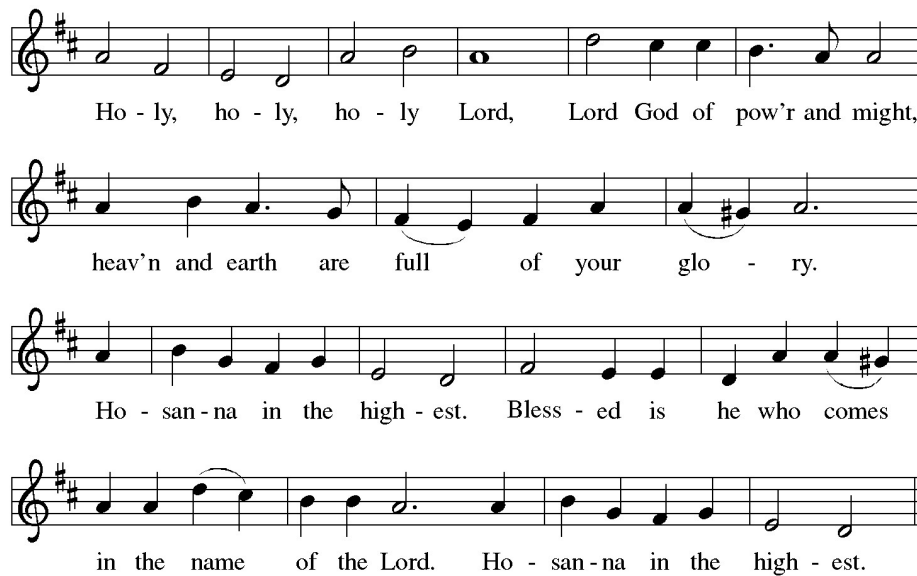
Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



♪ *It is indeed right...unending hymn:*



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.*

*In the same way, 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.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

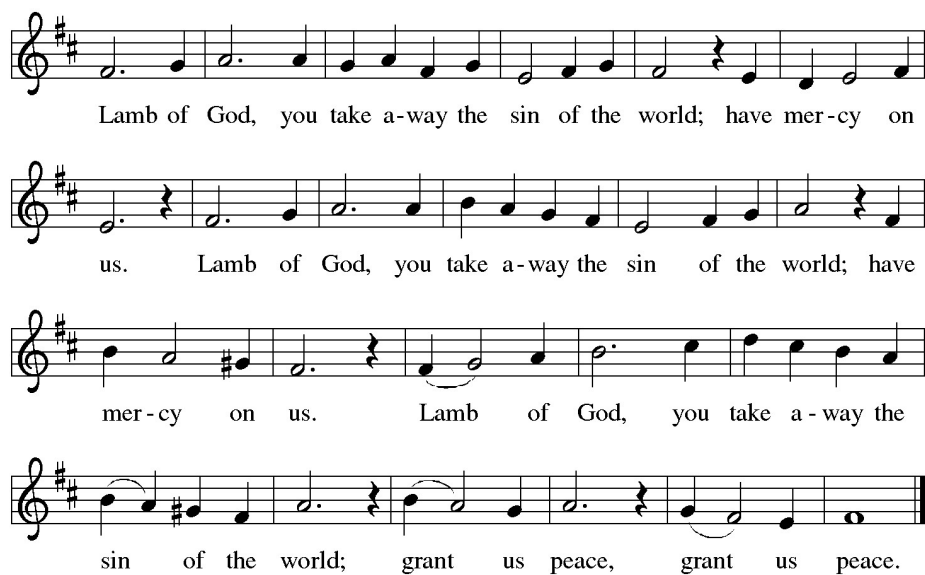
INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION

*This is Jesus' Table and Jesus is present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. Receive the bread in your open palm. All bread is gluten, wheat, nut, dairy, and soy free; it does contain egg. Proceeding to either communion assistant, hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. Non-alcoholized grape juice is in the pre-filled cups. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the bowls. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing. If you need communion brought to you, please let a neighbor know to inform the presiding minister.*

SINGING DURING COMMUNION



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

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for
in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -
be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

As the Deer Runs to the River



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
 Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
 God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
 Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Refrain
 Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950
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When all who so desire have received the Sacrament of the Altar, the assembly may rise in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

...now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

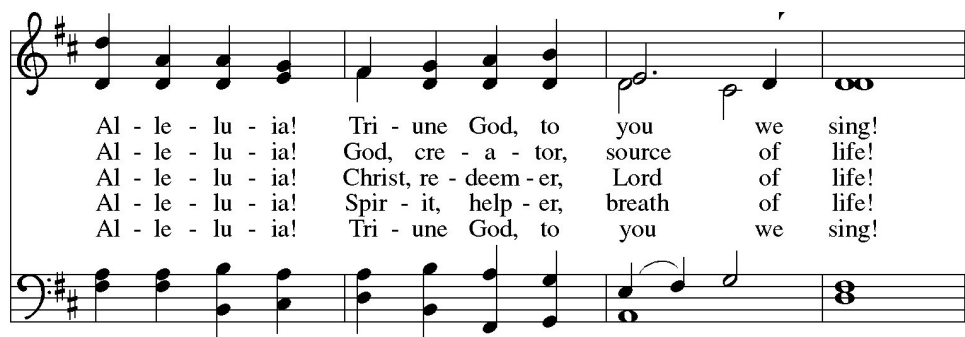
ELW 845

Voices Raised to You

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Dialogue sur les grands jeux"

N. Clerambault

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— EXPECTED TO LEAD IN WORSHIP TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – The Rev. Michael K. Snider

ACOLYTES – Matthew, Mason & Morgan Snider

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT –

LECTOR – Karen Braendel

USHERS – Diane & Bob Banks, Jessica Copfer, Carl Moore

ALTAR GUILD – Mary Daniels

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our wedding anniversary by Jan and Skip MacInnes.

Altar flowers are available on Sunday, November 29, the fifth Sunday of November. Please contact the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers. Thank you.

Today's Events

We welcome **Pastor Michael Snider of St. James/St. John in Girard** as our **guest preacher this morning**. Today is the Erie Lutheran Conference annual Pulpit Exchange! Pastor Jay is preaching at St. Paul's this morning.

Stop in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for delicious refreshments. Thank you to our Deborah Circle for providing this time of fellowship.

Choir rehearsal will be held at 9:20 this morning.

Detective skills will be put to the test at our **Family Scavenger Hunt** today. The fun begins at 1:00pm and will conclude no later than 5:00pm.

Faith Formation

*Faith Formation brochures are available at the Welcome Table.
Class dates are listed for children, youth, confirmation and adults.*

FAITH5! Join us for our new program called Faith5: Cross+Gen. This program gathers all ages around various topics to share in single “eduworship” opportunity. We will gather in the Parlor at 9:15am on the Second Sunday of each month and share a chance for everyone from our oldest to our youngest members to share and learn and grow and have a fun time growing deeper and broader and higher and further in faith together! It won’t be the same without you! Our next Faith5: Cross+Gen gathering will be Sunday, October 11. See you there!

Bible After Dark (BAD) meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari’s Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. **YOU** are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 6.

Brown Bag Bible (B³) gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. We will continue our study on the book of Revelation. Our next gathering will be Thursday, September 24.

We will again celebrate Confirmation on Reformation Sunday this year. If you are in 9th or 10th grade, please let Pastor Jay know if you are interested in being confirmed this year. If you are planning on being confirmed, mark your calendars for the Sundays of October after the 10:30 service with Pastor Jay in the conference room!

Worship

Bless This Night, an evening prayer service from Holden Village is held each Wednesday in September as we keep the Season of Creation. We gather at 6:30pm in the Luther Chapel. Hope to see **you** there!

Opportunities for Fellowship

L.I.A., Lutherans in Action, gather the second Tuesday of each month to help with community and service projects. Bring the family down and lend a hand. If you are not familiar with the BAND App, contact Sarah Prylinski at 814-882-1695 as outings are also posted on the app. We’re hoping you can join us.

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us September 22 for knitting and crocheting. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Contact Norma in the church office or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Oktoberfest, our annual delicious feast, will be held Sunday, October 4 at 11:30am in fellowship hall. The main course of bratwurst & sauerkraut, hotdogs and macaroni & cheese will be served, as well as beverages. All are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Raise your glasses and cheer – Oktoberfest! RSVP to the church office by today.

OWLS will be dining out at the Waterford Hotel on Wednesday, October 21. Join us for great conversation and delicious food at 11:00am. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or the church office by Friday, October 16.

Outreach & Support

CROP Walk day is Sunday, September 27 with registration at 1:00pm and the walk beginning at 2:00pm. The Walk will begin at Beach 1. Luther Memorial (both Church **and** Academy) will have a shared Team as part of LMA Sunday celebrations. A sign-up sheet and donation packets are located at the welcome table or you may speak with Pastor Jay. If you are unable to walk, consider making a donation to someone who is walking. Donation packets are also available from the church office.

Julia’s Cash Bash will be held Saturday, October 10 from 5:00-9:00pm at St. Francis Ushers Club, 9085 Main Street in McKean. Support the building of the Julia Hospice and Palliative facility and join us for a fun evening. Tickets are \$30 and include a full dinner, dessert, coffee, pop AND a chance to win cash prizes; 1st prize of \$1,000, 2nd prize of \$500 and 3rd prize of \$100. Contact Linda Graffius at 814-440-5458 for tickets.

Luther Memorial Academy

Brighten your home this fall with a colorful mum. Support LMA by purchasing a \$10 voucher, stop by Gerlach's Garden Center at 3161 W. 32nd Street, and select your mum. Vouchers are available this morning from Beth Keller (2nd grade teacher). Vouchers, available in the school and church offices, will be sold until September 25, 2026 and must be redeemed at Gerlach's by October 5.

Memoir of Rev. Glasoe

Rev. Tom Glasoe, pastor of Messiah Lutheran in Wesleyville, is writing a memoir about his journey which begins in an orphanage in Vietnam. A fundraiser party is being held on Saturday, October 3 from 2:00-3:30pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach Street. Everyone is welcome to attend as he shares his story. There will be live music, refreshments and a silent auction. Proceeds will go towards the publication of his book.

Items to Note

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

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

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Betsy Brumagin	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	David Leemhuis
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Karen Zamperini	Kate Martin
Donna Sedelmyer	Mary Mumford	Paul Meucci	Brian Hubbard
Ella Graffius	Lois Smith		

Friends and Family:

Hannah Jacob	Gail Lesuer	Linda F	Erin N.
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Mike	Ellie	Peggy S.
Kimberly Dunahue	Peter Maker	Shirley	Brynlee
Kevin Soles & family	Kathy Colvin	Anthony Benacci	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Kathy Nicewander	Connor
Arabelle	Mary Phipps	Nichole Jones	

Grief:

Mary Lou Breyley family

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	Justin Gajewski

Readings and Commemorations This Week.

20 September -- Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, 1996 -- *A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.*

21 September – St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist – Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; Psalm 119:33-40; Ephesians 2:4-10; Matthew 9:9-13 – *Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.*

22 September – Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 28:10-17; Romans 16:17-20

22 September – Psalm 106:1-12; Isaiah 41:1-13; Matthew 18:1-5

23 September – Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 12:17-28; James 4:11-16

24 September – Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:5-18; Acts 13:32-41

25 September – Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:19-24; Mark 11:27-33

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21	3:15pm	Prayer Group
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	10:00am 10:00am 6:30pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group Pericope Hand-Up Erie Meeting
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	6:30pm	<i>Bless This Night:</i> Evening Prayer for the Season of Creation
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	12:00pm 1:00pm 5:30pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group Handbells
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	11:30am	LMA Dismissal / Teacher Meeting
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26		

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY SUNDAY

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

Choir rehearsal at 9:20am.

Crop Walk held at Presque Isle, Beach 1.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Zach Middaugh
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Rob Cooney, Skip MacInnes
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	