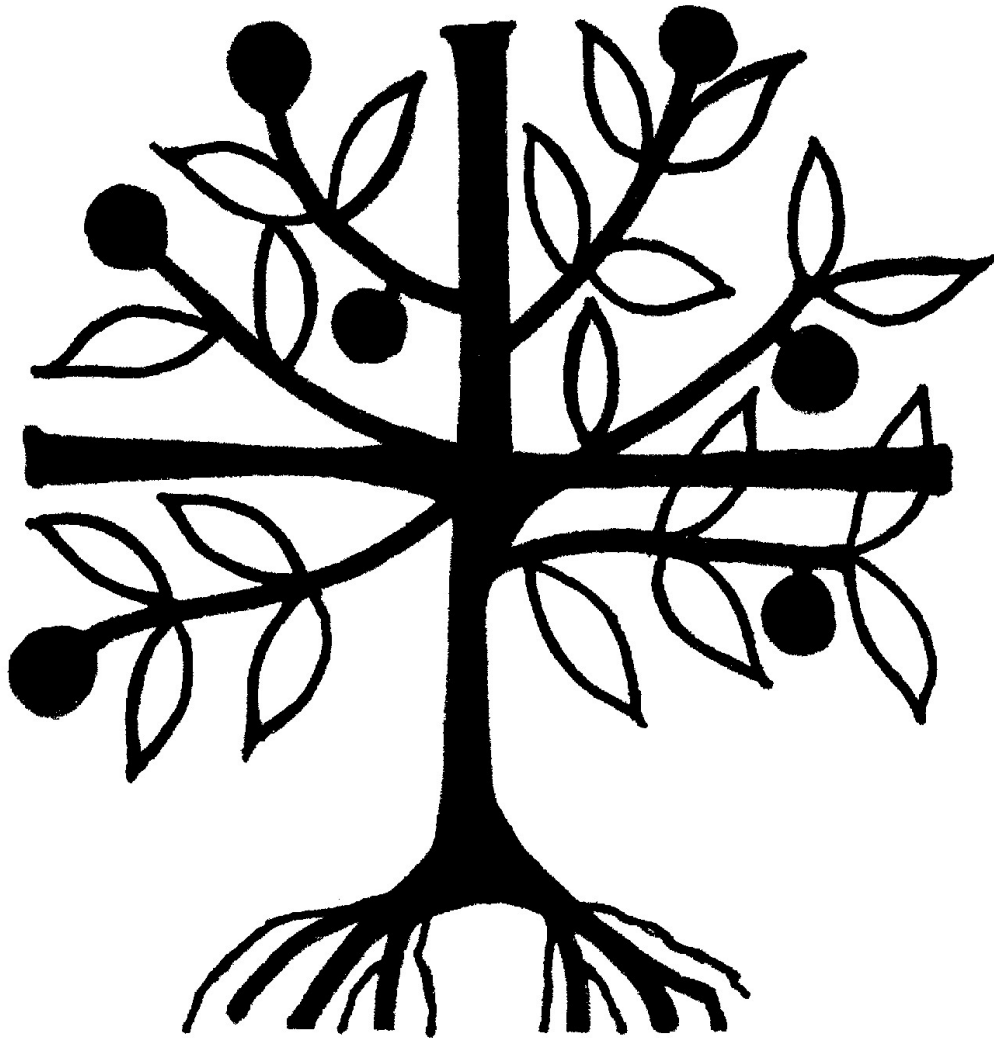


WELCOME TO
LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & ACADEMY



6 SEPTEMBER 2026
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Season of Creation: Forests
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).

+ + +

PRELUDE – "Prelude in F"

C. V. Stanford

Please rise in body or spirit.

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: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of + Jesus Christ,... Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

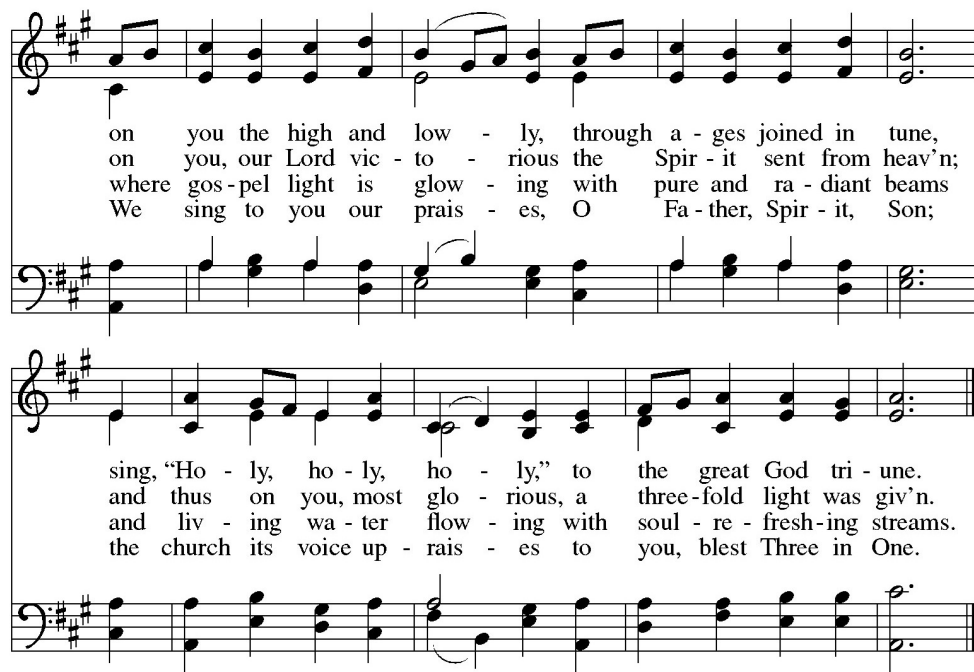
GATHERING HYMN

ELW 521

O Day of Rest and Gladness

1 O day of rest and glad-ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre-a-tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To-day on wea-ry na-tions the heav'n-ly man-na falls;
4 New grac-es ev-er gain-ing from this our day of rest,

O balm for care and sad-ness, most beau-ti-ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal-va-tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho-ly con-vo-ca-tions the sil-ver trum-pet calls,
we reach the rest re-main-ing to spir-its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;
sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh-ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

GREETING

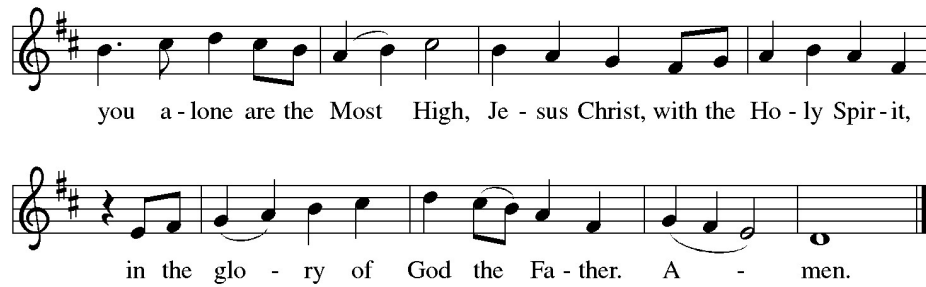
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

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.

After silence is kept for silent prayer, the presiding minister prays on behalf of all:

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the mysteries of the forest. Help us to stand in solidarity with your forest creatures who are suffering and serve you as agents for healing our garden planet. 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

Let us pray. God Almighty,... O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:4b-22

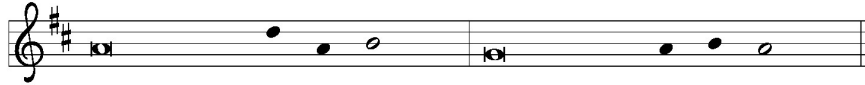
These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed the creature of earth from the dust of the ground and breathed into its nostrils the breath of life, and the creature of earth became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there put the creature of earth who had been formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the creature of earth and put it in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the creature, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the creature of earth should be alone; I will make a helper as a helpmeet.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the creature of earth to see what they would be called, and whatever the creature of earth called every living creature, that was its name. The creature of earth gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the creature there was not found a helpmeet. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the creature of earth, who slept; then the Lord God took one of the creature’s angular organs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the earth creature was made into a second creature of earth who was brought to the first.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 139:13-16

The psalm is chanted responsively according to the Tone 22.



For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.

**I will thank you because I am fearfully and wond- | rously made;
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.**

My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.

**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written | in your book;
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.**

SECOND READING: ACTS 17:22-28

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is served by human hands, as though needing anything, since this is the one who gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor all peoples were made to inhabit the whole earth, and the time of their existence was allotted and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about and find—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For 'In God we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are the divine's offspring.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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

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.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-15

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where

it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

SERMON

Pastor Jay

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

ACS 1046

As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring

1 As riv - ers flow from a dis - tant spring
 2 As trees rise up from the for - est floor
 3 As woods make shel - ter with - in its shade
 4 So let us praise you, Cre - a - tor God,

to quench our thirst and feed the earth,
 by roots that feed each limb a - bove,
 for beasts to feed and birds to nest,
 for worlds that wit - ness to your care,

so let our lives flow from you, our Source,
 so let our lives rise in praise to you,
 so let our lives be a shel - tered space,
 that show your pres - ence in ev - 'ry place,

to coun - ter death and nur - ture birth.
 from hearts we root in your deep love.
 a ref - uge for the worn to rest.
 your glo - ry shin - ing ev - 'ry - where.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: HÖKELUND, William Beckstrand, b. 1962
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 Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We lift in prayer those whose names and needs we hold dear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else shall we pray?

Here, you may offer your own petitions aloud.

For the prayers on our lips and in our hearts, hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for your saints, including Peter, and for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us like our beloved dead: Colleen, George, Margaret and Harold. 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 – "Pastorale"

J. K. Kuchar

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

OFFERTORY CANTICLE

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.

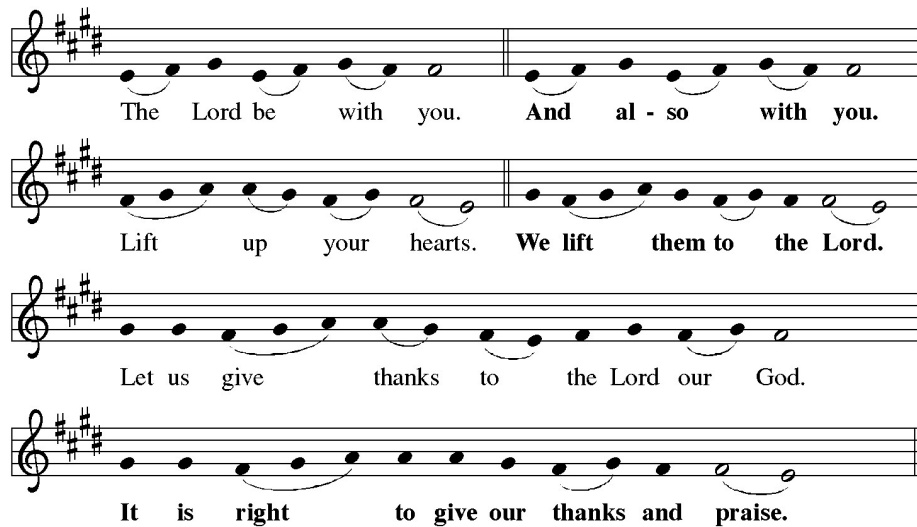
The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

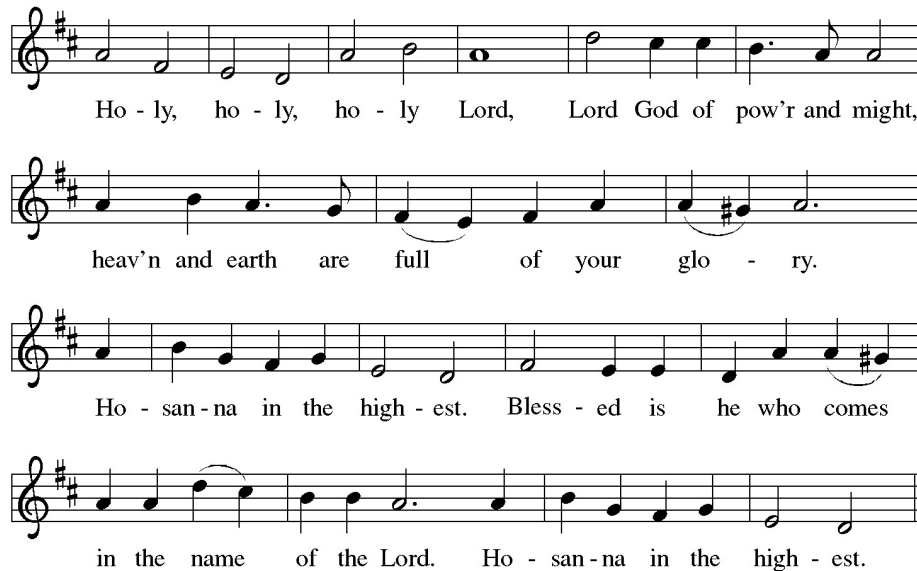
Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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



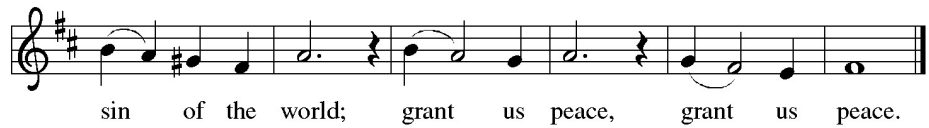
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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



ELW 474

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,
we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
- 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD, Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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By Your Hand You Feed Your People

1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis-dom sat - is - fy our deep-est needs.
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

Refrain

Christ's own bod-y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow-ing, life out - poured,
 giv - en as a liv-ing to - ken of your world re-deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briebl, b. 1952
 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

After all receive the Sacrament of the Altar, the assembly may rise in body or spirit.

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.



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 710

Let Streams of Living Justice

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an-cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo-ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Postlude"

N. Rawsthorne

+ + +

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— EXPECTED TO LEAD IN WORSHIP TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

ASSISTING MINISTER – Stan Rose

COMMUNION ASSISTANT –

LECTOR – C. Noelle Partusch

USHERS – Mary Daniels, Carl Moore

ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp

VIDEO STREAMING – Patrick Cimino



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Colleen and George Schaefer and Margaret Hedlund Sinclair and Harold Hedlund, by the Hedlund family.

Altar flowers are available on Sunday November 15. Please contact the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers. Thank you.

Worship Matters!

The seasons of the church year don't *really* follow too closely with the astronomical ones. And, in all honesty I think we can all agree that for various reasons the astronomical seasons aren't lining up the way they used to. But we call these times in the church year "seasons" because they offer a rhythm like those of the solar/lunar cycle, the astronomical seasons, and our calendars outside of church.

The longest seasons of the church year are "Ordinary Time" which technically comes in two installments throughout the year. Whenever we are in ordinary time (so called because we simply count the Sundays with ordinal numbers), the color green is used to show we are growing in faith as Church.

This year, a long-running movement in the Church is being shared with the Church Universal: The Season of Creation. This time—which may or may not include a specific feast of "Creation in Christ" at the beginning of September—runs from the beginning of September through St. Francis' Day on October 4. These 4-5 weeks are set aside to give thanks for God's gift of creation, to lament the damage that has been done to this gift, and to recommit ourselves to be good stewards of what God has given us.

Why this year? Well, the entire Church—Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Mainline Protestants, Evangelicals, even a good chunk of independents—shared a convention a few years back called by Pope Francis. At that convention conversations ranged from how to add a new festival to the church year (the last time that was done was 1925 with the addition of “Christ the King” Sunday). How to get as many people as possible involved and in agreement. What would the resources look like and would there be new lectionary texts chosen for this season?

This year, many denominations in the United States are finally joining in with appropriately crafted resources, lectionary texts, and themes for this season...and we are joining in as part of the ELCA. So in the days and weeks ahead (which will culminate in our celebration of St. Francis on Sunday, October 4 when any and all will be invited to worship with their furry and fuzzy and four legged friends), let us give thanks for God’s gift of creation!

Faith Formation

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. B³ meets each Thursday throughout the summer continuing with a study on the book of Revelation. B³ returns this Thursday at 12 noon. Our next gathering will be Thursday, September 10.

FAITH5! This fall we are kicking off a 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! The first Faith5: Cross+Gen gathering will be Sunday, September 13. See you there!

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 will be 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!

Help Us Update

We’re updating our church directory and we hope you will stop up to the 5th floor on Sunday, September 13 so we can get your picture. The first session is from 9:15-10:15 (between services) and the second session will be held at 11:30am. It won’t take but a minute to share your smiles with us. If your contact information has changed please contact Norma by phone at 814-454-0106, ext. 221 or email at nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org.

Opportunities for Fellowship

L.I.A., Lutherans in Action, gather the second Tuesday of each month to help with community and service projects. On Tuesday, September 8 we will begin organizing the donated items that have been received for our yard sale. 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 8 and 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 Sunday, September 20.

Family Scavenger Hunt fun is on Sunday, September 20. Put your detective skills to the test and join us at 1:00pm as you search for our mystery destination. The Hunt will conclude no later than 5:00pm. Have some fun; join us. Please RSVP to Sarah Prylinski, 814-882-1695, or the church office by Wednesday, September 9.

What's Your Game? The OWLS will be having a fun afternoon of games on Wednesday, September 16. Lunch will be provided. If you have a favorite game, bring it along. Reservations are due to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476 or the church office by Friday, September 11.

Youth

Our Yard Sale is almost here. Treasures will be found at our annual fall yard sale on Saturday, September 19 from 8:00am – 12 noon. Stop on down to fellowship hall for some great finds. Items for the sale may be dropped in the church office. Books, TV's or large electronic items, and soft furniture will not be accepted.

Outreach

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.

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.

LMA's Block Party will be held Saturday, September 12. Bring the family, grab some friends, and join us for a fun afternoon of games, bingo, cornhole and more. And the kids will have blast in the jumphouse, too. Stop down from 12:00 noon-4:00pm; rain or shine we're gonna have a good time. The QR code may be used to purchase block party tickets ahead of time and to register for cornhole.



Health Notes

RAM, Remote Area Medical Clinic, is now in its third year. RAM offers free dental, vision and medical services. The Clinic will be held Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13. The parking lot opens at 11:59pm with the Clinic opening at 6:00pm. Park and register at ECAT Wayne Lot, 934 East 7th Street. The Clinic is located at ECAT Wayne, 650 East Avenue. Services offered are at a first-come, first-served basis.

Bethany Outreach Center

PA 250 Power and Purpose Wellness Event and BOC Fundraiser with Master Billy Blanks will be held Saturday, September 12, 2026. PA 250 Power & Purpose is a wellness conference and fundraiser celebrating Billy's life and legacy. You're invited to join us! Expect energizing workout sessions, wellness vendors, and a community coming together for a good cause (our BOC food pantry). Whether you're a lifelong fitness enthusiast or just getting started, there's a place for you here. Join us September 12 for a full day of movement, community, and celebration featuring a live appearance by Erie's own world-renowned fitness expert, Billy Blanks, creator of Tae Bo.

Activities are being held at two sites:

- Ascend Climbing Gym - 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501
- St. John's Lutheran Church Gymnasium - 2216 Peach Street. Erie, PA 16502

Use this link to learn more, and to buy tickets and attend sessions:

<https://portal.eventio.ai/register/90a42f74-ca4d-4a32-bf59-0d768ed79b2c>

Contact Mabel Howard for additional information at 814-572-0985. Thank you in advance for your support.

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		

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.

7 September – Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; I Peter 2:11-17

8 September – **Nativity of the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary** – Micah 5:1-4, Psalm 12:5-7; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:18-23 – *The Church celebrates just three birthdays on its calendar: Christ the Lord, John the Baptist, and the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary. It is not known why September 8 was chosen to commemorate the birth of the Virgin. Nonetheless, since early times, in Rome at least from the seventh century, the Church has kept this day to remember the birth of her to whom the angelic messenger said, “blessed are you among women.” The celebration of Mary’s birth originated in the East and probably goes back to the dedication of St. Anne’s Church in Jerusalem, which was built in the fifth century on the supposed site of the house in which Mary was born. The Nativity of Mary, celebrated on this date in East and West, was continued on many Lutheran calendars down into the nineteenth century and occurs in a number of American Lutheran service books and calendars.*

9 September – **Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, 1654** – Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22 -- *Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.*

10 September – Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; I John 3:11-16

11 September – Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16

12 September – Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15

CALENDAR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

CHURCH OFFICES & LMA CLOSED
LABOR DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:00am	Pericope
10:00am	Magic Fingers Grace Group
3:00pm	W/ELCA
5:30pm	LIA (Lutherans in Action)
6:00pm	Council

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:30pm	<i>Bless This Night:</i> Evening Prayer for the Season of Creation
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:00am	Diabetes Prevention Program
12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
1:00pm	Grief Group
5:30pm	Handbells

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 12:00pm LMA Block Party

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

Church Directory pictures taken on the 5th floor.

FAITH5 will be held at 9:15am in the parlor.

Choir rehearsal will be held at 9:20am.

Second Sunday Social will be held at 10:30am in the parlor; compliments of Tuesday W/ELCA Circle.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Chloe Meucci
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Pastor Jay
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Patrick Cimino, Gail Zackrison
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	