

# *ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING*



*LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH  
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY  
(A Christian Day School)*

*225 WEST TENTH STREET  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16501  
(814-454-0106)*

*JANUARY 29, 2023*

***AGENDA***  
***ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***  
***JANUARY 30, 2022***

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer                      | Pastor Brian Moran |
| 2. Discussion on the Process of Voting |                    |
| 3. Appointment of a Secretary          | Mr. Les Fobes      |
| 4. Adopt the Agenda                    | Mr. Les Fobes      |

**B. ELECTION OF COUNCIL**

- |                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Nominating Committee Report | Mr. Greg Kern |
|--------------------------------|---------------|

**C. WORDS OF GRATITUDE, OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Mr. Les Fobes

**D. REPORT OF THE CALL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tom Klomp

**E. REPORTS OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Reports                                | Mr. Les Fobes |
| 2. Reports be Accepted and Placed on File | Mr. Les Fobes |

**F. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. 2022 Financial Review and 2023 Budget | Mr. Greg Kern |
|--|---------------|

**G. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LUTHER MEMORIAL CONSTITUTION**

Mr. Les Fobes

**H. PROPOSED COLUMBARIUM PLANS**

Mr. Rick Kern

**I. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF GREENSPACE**

Mr. Les Fobes

Presentation of Plan and Survey	Parking
Tree Plantings	Pavilion
Lighting	Irrigation
Lighting of LM Building	Signage
Lighting of greenspace	Renew Wall

**J. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

Mr. Les Fobes

Be it resolved:

1. That we express our thanks to Almighty God for the blessings we have received during the past year, and that we pledge ourselves anew to dedicated Christian living, worship, and service in this new year of grace, 2023.
2. We express our thanks to all members of the congregation who served so faithfully in our church during 2022, especially those members of Congregational Council completing terms of service; John Bartlett, Les Fobes, Bill Lasher, Betty Pletz and Michael Snider.
3. That we also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our 2022 staff: Imarii Anderson, Julie Borst, David Buerk, Norma Buerk, Cheryl Caram, Becky Carey, Caryn Chludzynski, Carol Crockett, Jody Donovan, Kim Evans, Amanda Fried, Walt Gaber, Amy Gilewicz, Linda Graffius, Beth Keller, Ron King, Maureen Kurtic, Charlie Lintelman, Pastor Karen Lundwall, Jan MacInnes, MacKayla Mattock, Sally McAfee, Pastor Brian Moran, Christine Musi, Christopher Paul, Sarah Prylinski, Katie Romba, Miriam Scheid, Stephanie Sherwood, Michael Snider, Cheryl Steele.

Agenda, cont'd.:

4. That the Council be authorized to act on the report of the auditor when completed.
5. That the minutes of this meeting be considered for adoption by the Church Council not later than the second regular meeting following this annual meeting.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

1. Closing Prayer

Pastor Karen Lundwall



***LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH STAFF***

PASTOR KAREN LUNDWALL  
PASTOR BRIAN MORAN

PASTOR IN RESIDENCE  
PASTOR IN RESIDENCE

WALTER GABER

CANTOR

BETH KELLER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY

SARAH PRYLINSKI

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY

LINDA GRAFFIUS

PARISH NURSE / DIRECTOR OF CARE & HEALTH MINISTRIES

JAN MACINNES

CARE MINISTRY

MIRIAM SCHEID

PARISH MANAGER

NORMA BUERK

SECRETARY

BECKY CAREY

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR  
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

AMANDA FRIED

SECRETARY  
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

DAVID BUERK

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

CAIDEN SNIDER  
MITCH STROUP

SUNDAY MORNING / WEEKLY SECURITY

***LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH COUNCIL***

LES FOBES . . . . PRESIDENT

MCHAEL SNIDER . . . . VICE-PRESIDENT

EMMA CHAFFEE . . . . SECRETARY

GREG KERN . . . . TREASURER

ANN FLICK . . . . ASSISTANT TREASURER

JOHN BARTLETT

NATALIE MONTERO

PAT BELLINGHAM

BETTY PLETZ

DAVID GRISWOLD

STAN ROSE

MARK HOWELL

LIZ STROUP

BILL LASHER

JEFF SWANSON

OTTO 'SKIP' MEYN

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2022**

**A. Meeting Called to Order – 11:32am.**

- a. Declaration of a Quorum – Les Fobes affirmed that after a count a Quorum was present.
- b. Appointment of a Secretary – Norma Buerk, church secretary, had been asked by Les Fobes to act as secretary.
- c. Explanation of Voting Procedure – Les Fobes
- d. Appointment of Tellers – The following served as Tellers: Linda Graffius, Dave Griswold, Gina Sims.
- e. Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Printed – made by Dave Griswold, seconded by Tom Klomp. Motion carried.

**B. Election of Council**

- a. Introduction of Council Nominees:
  - 1. Greg Kern announced the Council Nominees: Pat Bellingham, Dave Griswold, Bill Lasher, Natalie Montero, Otto ‘Skip’ Meyn, Betty Pletz, Liz Stroup, Jeff Swanson are newly nominated for 2022
- b. Nominations from the Floor Requested – none were made
- c. Council Bios and Ballots were distributed – 59 votes received for all eight (8) nominees. Three (3) ballots received were incomplete.

**C. Review of Council President’s Report**

- a. President Les Fobes expressed our thanks for Pastor Brian Moran, Pastor Karen Lundwall and Lay Leader Michael Snider as they continue to rotate Sunday morning preaching schedules, as well as funerals, weddings, etc. that are taking place since Pastor Coleman’s move.
- b. Thank you to the church staff and Call Committee for their extra efforts this year.
- c. Hotel Demolition – President Les Fobes reviewed the hotel demolition process including:
  - i. How the bids were received
  - ii. The closing was held on November 30 and DRS had fencing up around the property and began work on December 1. Work has slowed in the last two weeks due to extreme amounts of snow and bitter cold.
  - iii. Increase in cost was due to a basement we were unaware of, extra asbestos and boilers. These items were discovered after purchase as the owner did not grant access to the hotel prior to Luther Memorial’s purchase.

**D. Call Committee**

- a. Chairman Tom Klomp offered an update of the Call Committee sharing that Bishop Lozano met with the Committee and distributed a large packet of directions that must be followed and completed to select a new pastor. Some of these reports are a Ministry Site Profile, Demographic Profile, Budget Information, and Site Characteristics.
- b. Call Committee members – Rob Benacci, Emma Chaffee, Jonathan Gaber, Eric Hedlund, Tom Klomp, Marilyn Rositer, Carol Schaal and Michael Snider.

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, January 30, 2022

- c. Congregational Input – A survey was distributed to all in attendance and asked that it be completed and returned to the church office by Sunday, February 6. This survey will be emailed to the congregation on Monday, January 31 and it will be requested that it be completed and returned in the same time frame.
- d. Time Frame – Upon completion of all items in the packet it will then need council approval. This will be forwarded to the Bishop for his approval.
- e. A question was asked regarding how broad the search will be. Emma Chaffee said this will be a nationwide search.

**E. Reports of Congregational Council, Staff and Committees**

- a. Reports were accepted and will be placed on file.

**F. Financial Report**

- a. 2022 Budget was presented by Greg Kern.
- b. Approximately \$1,000/month will be used from the Renew building and applied to our income.
- c. The roof at Renew is in need of repair and will be addressed.
- d. Projecting that expenses for our new pastor may begin in September.
- e. Motion to accept the budget as presented by Eric Hedlund, second by Stan Rose. Motion carried.

**G. Proposed Resolutions Accepted by Congregational Council**

Be it resolved:

1. That we express our thanks to Almighty God for the blessings we have received during the past year, and that we pledge ourselves anew to dedicated Christian living, worship, and service in this new year of grace, 2022.
2. We express our thanks to all members of the congregation who served so faithfully in our church during 2021, especially those members of Congregational Council completing terms of service; Vicky Blasco, Ken Kraut, Mark Lechner, Dorothy Overberg, Jack Tell and Pat Young.
3. That we also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our 2021 staff: Imarii Anderson, David Buerk, Norma Buerk, Cheryl Caram, Becky Carey, Pastor Bill Coleman, Carol Crockett, Jody Donovan, Kim Evans, Amanda Fried, Walt Gaber, Amy Gilewicz, Linda Graffius, Tammy Hayes, Elizabeth Hokaj, Beth Keller, Ron King, Maureen Kurtic, Charlie Lintelman, Jan MacInnes, Sally McAfee, Christine Musi, Christopher Paul, Sarah Prylinski, Katie Romba, Miriam Scheid, Kathryn Schultz, Stephanie Sherwood, Cheryl Steele, Caryn Wells.
4. That the Council be authorized to act on the report of the auditor when completed.
5. That the minutes of this meeting be considered for adoption by the Church Council not later than the second regular meeting following this annual meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Lasher, second by Jessica Copfer at 12:25pm.

Pastor Karen Lundwall offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Norma Buerk*

## ***SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LUTHER MEMORIAL CONSTITUTION***

Our current constitution has references to the Bethany Foundation which no longer exists. Council decided to remove these references, and at the same time review the entire constitution and make any necessary or desired updates. The changes are essentially editorial and are summarized below.

For these changes to become effective they must be approved at two consecutive Congregational meetings – this year and next year.

1. Several typographical and formatting corrections were made but are not shown. Examples are the addition of periods to the section numbers; replacing periods with “)” on numbered subsections for consistency; spelling; and punctuation errors.
2. Addition of a revision date to the header which will need to be filled in once it’s approved by the congregation.
3. Selection of options in the ELCA model constitution reflecting our practice that were not done in the original document – specific subsections are:
  - a. C5.03 – Council elects it’s on officers rather than the Congregation; removal of any references to by-laws since we don’t have them
  - b. C8.02 (d) – Associate members must be members of other Christian congregations (as opposed to ELCA or Lutheran)
  - c. C9.01, C 9.21 – a call committee is elected by Council, not by the congregation
  - d. C10.02 and C12.12 – removal of the word [senior] in front of pastor since we are unlikely to have a senior pastor for the foreseeable future
  - e. C13.04 – the Mutual Ministry committee is appointed by the president of council (as opposed to the vice-president) along with the pastor
4. C12.05 and C13.02 – removal of mentions to the Bethany Foundation.
5. C16.01 – adding the number of voting members (2) needed to propose amendments.

***NOMINATING COMMITTEE***  
***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***



The Nominating Committee, formed ad-hoc at the October 2022 meeting of Church Council, was asked to seek church members willing to stand for election to Church Council at the annual meeting on January 29, 2023. The committee members were Les Fobes and Greg Kern.

Mike Snider has finished his first 3-year term and does not wish to run again. Bill Lasher and Betty Pletz have finished their 1-year terms and do not wish to run again. Les Fobes and John Bartlett have finished their second 3-year terms and cannot run again.

This means that there are five open positions.

The following five members have agreed to become nominees for the five available positions for Luther Memorial's Church Council:

Mike Hedlund 3-yr

Dave Kinzig 3-yr

Gina Snider 3-yr

Pat Young 3-yr

Jean McMillin 1-yr

Respectfully submitted,  
*Greg Kern*  
Nominating Chair





***REPORT OF THE  
CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

The year 2022 has been eventful. It was a glorious day when Covid restrictions were lifted and we could return to 8:15 and 10:30am worship and in Luther Memorial's beautiful sanctuary. My thanks to everyone for their patience and cooperation this year. It's because of the belief that we are in this together that we provide one another the space and encouragement to serve this church and the community. Throughout the pandemic turmoil we can thank our heavenly Father for protecting each of us. Undoubtedly we have either had the virus or known friends or loved ones who have been impacted by this tragic disease. But through prayer and strong Christian faith we have made it day by day.

As a congregation we are blessed to have ministers who are members of Luther Memorial. Pastor Lundwall and Pastor Moran have been wonderful leaders for our congregation and Michael Snider has also been serving as our lay leader. My deepest appreciation to these wonderful people who have stepped in to get us through this transition.

The Call Committee, consisting of Rob Benacci, Emma Chaffee, Jonathan Gaber, Eric Hedlund, Tom Klomp, Marilyn Rositer, Carol Schaal and Michael Snider, has been diligent in fulfilling their duties since September 2021. They prepared the site profile for Luther Memorial and reviewed the candidates' profiles that Bishop Lozano had presented to them. They interviewed Pastor Jay Mitchell and recommended him to church council. The Council met with Pastor Mitchell and subsequently recommended him to the congregation. On Saturday, January 14, 2023 there was a meet and greet for members to visit with Pastor Mitchell and Chaz. On Sunday, January 15, 2023 Pastor Mitchell preached at both services. After church the congregation voted to accept Pastor Jay Mitchell as Luther Memorial's new pastor. Pastor Mitchell will move to Erie the end of February and begin his tenure at Luther Memorial on March 12, 2023.

At the Annual Meeting we will make plans for the development of the greenspace. This project has required a great deal of planning and politicking with the City of Erie by the Property Committee and our representatives. Things like zoning, taxes, water runoff, curbs, traffic flow and deadlines have been priorities and the reason why development has not happened sooner.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the entire Luther Memorial staff for their dedication to this ministry. I thank all of you who have served on committees, been council members, prepared food, performed music, visited the homebound, prayed for all of us, knitted, led prayer groups and Bible studies and all those other things you do to make the mission and ministry at Luther Memorial an important part of our lives and the Erie community.

*Les Fobes*  
Church Council President



***REPORT OF THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT  
TO HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

As always, I must begin by thanking you for your continued support of the ministries of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church these past ten years. Your support enables this ministry site to continue to provide important outreach to the neighborhood of Little Italy, as well as to the wider community in the City of Erie. Your good wishes, thoughts and prayers are sustaining to both Pr. Harbaugh, me, and your sisters and brothers in Christ at Holy Trinity.

During the year 2022 we continued to gather by telephone conference call for a prayer service that included a psalm, scripture readings (a lesson and the appointed gospel) with a homily presented for each lesson, by Pr. Harbaugh and me, alternating between the lesson and the gospel each week. Congregation members have provided special music, both regular and special Sudanese hymns.

On Sunday May 1, we returned to in-person worship at Holy Trinity and have continued to worship each Sunday as was the normal pattern. We have used an abbreviated service upon return, but are adding more to the liturgy each few weeks.

July 24 was Pr. Harbaugh's last Sunday, as he has fully retired (from Holy Trinity at least!) and moved to Melbourne, Florida. On that Sunday we took in 20 new members, 5 by baptism and 15 by affirmation of baptism, all from within the Sudanese community.

Our Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm (led by Pr. Harbaugh and me), using the Immerse Bible series, is graciously shared with us by McLane Church. To his delight, Pr. Harbaugh is able to continue sharing in the Bible Study ministry, as it is done via our teleconference line, and assists in leading each week's study.

In September we re-opened the Pasta/Soup Kitchen to once again serve a free meal to the community on Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Saturday at lunch time, and our Clothes Closet each Tuesday and Saturday at meal time. Unfortunately, we have lost the majority of our volunteer staff that served the Food Pantry, so that has not re-opened in its former incarnation.

However, from March of 2020 through August of 2022, Holy Trinity began a prepared food bag distribution to our friends and neighbors in Little Italy. Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank – Feeding America program, we are able to pick-up prepared surplus food from multiple Country Fair stores, Giant Eagle-Yorktown, Sheetz-Girard, and food from Panera/Country Fair from Luther Memorial. We assemble bags to distribute on Wednesdays and Saturdays at noon. Through our generous donors, we were able to supplement the bags with fresh fruit and milk/juice. During that period, we distributed 8,500 sets of bags which included over 120,000 pounds of reclaimed food. We have been continuing to distribute approximately 20 bags each Tuesday evening following the Tuesday food pick-up.

Pr. Harbaugh and I worked to strengthen our outreach in the areas of mission, and he has been working diligently with our sisters and brothers in the Sudanese community. Our Sudanese members offer their gifts to the ministry in many ways, but most especially in the form of singing, as they provide us with music from their heritage two to three times per month. Just recently, we added a reading of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> lessons in Arabic, when a Sudanese community member is the worship assistant, as means to broaden the inclusivity of the community in worship.

Report of the Pastoral Assistant, cont'd.:

Please know that the continuation of these ministries is a result of your vision and willingness to be the church in the world, and that the congregation truly appreciates your witness, and that you are welcome to visit any time the spirit would move you, and are always most obviously welcome to volunteer your time and talents in whatever way you are moved, as well.

And on a personal note, I do miss coming to Luther Memorial quarterly to lead and share in worship, but know you remain close in our hearts and thoughts and prayers. I cannot say it often enough, thank you again for your ongoing prayers, good wishes and support, and, peace and blessings to each and every one of you; in Christ,

In Christ,  
*Ron King*





**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT – 2022**

The following groups, programs, and special events are under the umbrella of Christian Education at Luther Memorial Church. With the lifting of Covid restrictions programming has continued to grow.

Children's Church in-person	Wednesday Lenten Studies
Vacation Bible School	Adult Spiritual Growth
Third Grade Bibles	Baptism Celebration
First Communion	Pineapple Sundays
Christmas Pageant	Care Squad
Confirmation Classes	Rally Day
Nursery	Soup and Salad Luncheon/Cookout
Camp Lutherlyn	LYO Service Sunday
Lutheran Youth Organization ( LYO)	Gods Work, Our Hands
Acolyte Training	Soup Sales

The Cradle Roll is overseen by Jeanne Gaber.

The Baby Blanket deliveries are overseen by Linda Graffius.

The following were new or occurred in 2022:

- Fundraising for the LYO will continue and planning has begun for the next National Youth Gathering which will be in New Orleans, 2024.
- No attendees for Winter Retreat at Lutherlyn for 2022.
- Trunk or Treat had a small group participating we hope to grow in numbers for next year.
- The annual Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday following the 10:30am service has been well attended and continues to bring spring happiness.
- The LYO (grades 7-12) continues to grow as does our Children's Church.
- Confirmands and their families attended a breakfast on Reformation Sunday celebrating and acknowledging their faith growth in the church and with God.
- Confirmands attended 6 weeks of classes from 11:30am to 1:00pm with Beth, Sarah, and Pastor Lundwall leading up to Reformation Sunday in October. Lessons, topics, lunch, and a project were all enjoyed.
- Our nursery continues to be overseen by Anna Keller.
- Thank you to our church families for participating in our Children's Church Christmas Program. This past year families chose, created, and presented a Chrismon. The meaning of the Chrismon was read by a member of the family while another member of that family hung the Chrismon on the tree.

Christian Education, cont'd.:

- Our Children's Church grades PreK-6 have been meeting the second Sunday of the month in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 10:15am. LYO meets the third Sunday of the month 9:30 to 10:15.
- Thank you to Cathie Dugan and her daughter, Keri Cooney, for volunteering to teach and guide our young children in their Christian faith.
- Confirmation Camp in June 2022 at Lutherlyn was well attended by the LYO aged youth. Thank you to our dedicated and generous church members and church council for their continued support and financial donations for sponsorships.
- Fundraising for the youth has continued with selling of ham loaves, dry dip mixes, seasonal basket raffles, BINGO, soup sales, and bake sales.
- The Care Squad this school year (21-22) was able to make cards for the V.A. Hospital, labeled soap for Human trafficking awareness, and make book marks for the Cheer Baskets.
- Volunteer opportunities were able to be done this past year from God's Work Our Hands, CROP Walk, and passing out of food in December at Bethany Outreach Center.
- Service Sundays with the LYO continue to look for opportunities to serve members of our congregation in 2023.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Scavenger Hunt was during the fall 2022. "God's Work. Our Hands" was embedded in the hunt. The hunt ended at Sisson's Pumpkin Farm in Girard.
- LYO hosted BINGO Fall 2022 and will host Spring 2023.
- VBS was planned June 27-30 in the evenings, unfortunately no families attended. Group curriculum is continued to be used and has been enjoyed by families in the past.
- Christmas Lights at Luther was the evening of December 14 from 6:00 to 7:00pm. We hope it will continue to grow and be enjoyed by all.
- LYO enjoyed a wonderful evening walking to the lighting of Perry Square, visiting Covenant Church with many nativity dioramas and Christmas soloists, returning to church for pizza, games, and fellowship.
- Kids for Kids continues to support families at Luther Memorial Academy and Luther Memorial Church. Thank you to everyone for their donations in making the holidays a little brighter for struggling families and members.
- Continued thanks to Lynette Gustafson and her sister, Amy Scott, for their dedication in organizing, recruiting, practicing, and presenting the St. Lucia Program at Luther each December. Also many thanks to our cantor, Walt Gaber, and our Luther Memorial choir who are a part of this special event.

Christian Education, cont'd.:

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the Body of Christ to raise a person of faith. Volunteers in Christian Education do important work and we are truly thankful for each and every person who has been a part of the team to help one another to know Jesus Christ. You are all so greatly needed. Covid may have changed the way some things were done this year, but we continue to work around it, adapt as necessary, and thanks to your support of our Christian Education programming we continue to learn and come together as God's family.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Beth Keller and Sarah Prylinski*



9-21  
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**"The sermon was good, but I think  
you could've used a couple jokes  
to jazz it up a bit."**



## ***CANTOR'S REPORT*** ***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

### **“We proclaim the Word of God through Music”**

I would like to thank all those who have participated in and helped lead our worship through music. The pandemic has continued to impact our worship and ability to make music together, but we are gradually returning to a degree of normalcy. We welcome the opportunity to raise our voices once again in *praise and adoration*.

The core of our music ministry is found in the adult choir, which, in normal times, rehearsed about two hours a week (*Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning warm-ups*). You will remember that beginning in 2020 and continuing throughout 2021, several singers worked from their homes to learn the music and record their individual voices, thus enabling the composite hymn recordings we heard each week in our worship services. We are glad that we are now able to rehearse and sing together, although we continue to take precautions such as shorter rehearsals and the use of masks. I hope to continue to build our choir back up to pre-pandemic numbers. Please thank the following for their faithful participation throughout all or part of 2022.

Pat Boyd	Molly Gaber	Mary Laver	Matt Royek
Cathie Dugan	Kay Gudgeon	Otto ‘Skip’ Meyn	Kathy Sahlmann
Jonathan Gaber	Ken Kraut	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Young

The handbell choir has rehearsed throughout the year to prepare and perform selections for our worship services on a regular basis and for special services (*e.g. St. Lucia program, Christmas Eve*). Please thank the following for their faithful participation throughout all or part of 2022.

Christy Adams	Cathie Dugan	Molly Gaber	Barb Moore
Pat Bellingham	Les Fobes	Lynnette Gustafson	Kara Partusch
Pat Boyd	Jeanne Gaber	Mary Laver	Matt Royek
Emma Chaffee	Jonathan Gaber	Lena Martin	Kathy Sahlmann

As a reminder, we have an archive of the recordings made by our virtual choir and handbells during the pandemic. This includes more than 150 hymns and several handbell pieces uploaded as MP3 files to the Luther Memorial web site. These digital stereo files should be playable on any device including your smartphones and tablets – although please use your best audio devices for the full experience.

- Hymns: Menu: Ministries | Music Ministry | Hymn Recordings ([www.LutherMemorialOnline.org/Music\\_HymnRecordings](http://www.LutherMemorialOnline.org/Music_HymnRecordings))
- Organ & Handbells: Menu: Ministries | Music Ministry | Organ Recordings ([www.LutherMemorialOnline.org/Music\\_OrganRecordings](http://www.LutherMemorialOnline.org/Music_OrganRecordings))

New choir members are always welcome. Please know that many of our singers do not read music and have not had formal music training. One component of choir participation is the friendships that are formed as we give back to God what He has first given us – our love of music, our talents, and our voices. Also know that you do not need to commit to full participation – we would welcome a shorter commitment by your participation in the choir for a single season (*e.g. Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter*).

Cantor's Report, cont'd.:

I would like to thank the instrumentalists that have added their talents to our worship. During 2022, these included:

Bob Banks	Saxophone
Cathie Dugan	Timpani
Jonathan Gaber	Cello
Linda Melaragno	Violin
Otto 'Skip' Meyn	Clarinet
Barb Moore	Flute

If you have similar instrumental skills (*or know others in our fellowship that do*), please contact me as I have a special fondness for the use of instruments in worship beyond the organ, handbells, and piano.

The two existing electronic organs continue to provide reliable service with a few minor maintenance issues. It should be noted that, as with any electronic device, their lifetime is finite, and we should prepare for their eventual decline or failure while maintaining them at their highest level. The small pipe organ provides valuable options for music in our worship. We also have an exceptionally fine grand piano in the nave which serves well as a solo instrument and for the accompaniment of instrumental and vocal music intended for the piano. We note the passing of Robert Sadowski (*October 10, 2022*) who regularly maintained our pianos over the past decades.

I thank those who serve on the Worship & Music committee, especially Cathie Dugan for her leadership and organization. The decisions and work of this group greatly contribute to the quality and completeness of our worship together. They need to be commended for the additional responsibility of making recommendations to council as to how our worship might be modified to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus and the gradual return to "normal" worship. Also, a special thanks to Pastor Lundwall, Pastor Moran and Michael Snider who served us so well during our time of pastoral transition. Without them, my work would have been so much more difficult, and our worship life would have suffered immensely.

Our Concert Series has been on hiatus since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our last major event was a Bach Cantata Vespers concert & service in March 2020, shortly before the statewide lockdown was enacted. During the 2022-2023 season we have taken one small step to return some programming. The 30-minute Christmas Eve concerts returned with the performance of Jonathan Gaber (*cello*), Barb Moore (*flute*) and Walt Gaber (*piano*).

I continue to serve as a member of the NWPA ELCA Synod Worship & Music committee which plans and evaluates synod-wide worship services. I am also on the board of the *Presque Isle ProMusica*, the chamber orchestra in residence at Luther Memorial. All these organizations have had their activities severely curtailed due to the pandemic, but there is some hope that they will resume as the pandemic is evolving to an endemic disease.

One extremely significant loss at the end of 2022 was the passing of Mark Lechner on December 16. Mark was very involved in many different aspects of Luther Memorial life. Here are a few of the contributions he made to the Worship & Music of Luther Memorial:

- Wrote the weekly commentaries in our bulletins for all the hymns we sing
- Sang as a tenor in the choir for many years
- Participated in our handbell choir



Cantor's Report, cont'd.:

- Served on the Concert Series and organ committees from their inception
- Assisted with preparation and proofreading of the program notes for the Bach Cantata Vesper series
- Provided much guidance and support to me, especially as I began my tenure as your cantor at Luther Memorial. His perspectives on the history of worship and music at Luther Memorial were invaluable to me.

Music is one of the ministries that draw people to our congregation. The success of this ministry is due to the dedication and hard work of the people involved in the program. As you can see, there are many individuals involved in making our corporate worship possible and enriching our lives through music. I apologize to any that I may have overlooked in this report. I thank all of those that have offered words of encouragement and appreciation over the past months.

As your Cantor, I look forward to leading our worship together in the coming months and years. And I thank God for calling me to serve this congregation.

Grace and Peace,

— Cantor Walt Gaber —





**CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY**  
**PRAYER PARTNERS**  
**EMERGENCY & PREPAREDNESS TEAM**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022**

Many people have commented that they are glad 2022 is over, me included. They don't give a specific reason and neither can I. But, in preparing this report it shows that LMC Care and Health Ministry was quite busy, a good busy doing God's work.

It wasn't till more than half way through the year when Care Ministers could resume in home or LTC visits. Most people felt safer after receiving the vaccine. Phone calls and cards were sent if a visit couldn't be made. Our recipients rejoiced when communion could be brought to them.

Jan continued her faithful bereavement ministry by sending sympathy cards and the Stephen Ministry grief booklets. Jan also took a total of 403 knitted crosses and 125 Word in Season books to Hamot-Hillman Cancer Center infusion and radiation areas. Betty Pletz also took them to the surgical pre-op area of Hamot.

Also, in April Jan organized collections for the military. Twenty (20) boxes were sent to the troops at the Djibouti base.

Our wonderful ladies of the Magic Fingers Knitting group have worked hard making prayer shawls, knitted crosses, baby blankets and hats for the preemie NICU babies at Hamot and St. Vincent. Mary Lou Breyley takes them to St. Vincent Hospital NICU. Pastor Lundwall blessed the prayer shawls, knitted crosses and prayer stones in October.

Our tenth annual Blue Christmas service was held in person and online on December 11. We were pleased with 31 in-person attendees and 24 watching on YouTube.

The OWL's resumed meeting in September with Dr. Christopher Strzalka from the Julia Hospice and Palliative Care non-profit. He answered many questions about hospice and palliative care. The OWL's group went to the Pine Junction restaurant for lunch in October. The food was good and they enjoyed the ride seeing the colorful leaves. In November a very interesting presentation was offered by The Fairview Historical Society. We were introduced to the story of Mr. and Mrs. Bell, a Jewish couple who started and ran a Jewish Orphanage in Fairview. We had our annual Christmas party in December. The main food and dessert were provided and everyone brought a dish to share. Our numbers are growing as people realize what fun we have and the interesting programs. We collected \$255 in December from the OWL's for the ELCA Good Gifts program. It feels good to reach out to those in need.

The Prayer Partners have met about every 5-6 weeks to review the prayer lists. This wonderful group of 13 members faithfully prays for those in need.

The need for our monthly meal ministry decreased this year as people were able to get out and get their own groceries. I did help one (1) member get set up with the Meals on Wheels shopping program. We did 15 full meals in February, otherwise we sent out 4 light meals. Several meals were assembled and delivered from the remaining food from the LMA Thanksgiving lunch. The rest of it was taken to the EUMA-Refuge Center for Women and Children. Food from Panera and Country Fair was taken to Holy Trinity food pantry through November but then stopped due to their reorganization process. In December we began taking the food to the Overflow shelters.

Care Ministry, cont'd.:

The holidays are always busy. In April beautiful spring flowers were delivered to shut-ins. In December we assembled 28 baskets and bags containing fruit, cookies and candy. Many were thrilled to receive these gifts. Some poinsettias were delivered after Christmas.

I continued writing the Care and Health Ministry newsletter article and was finally able to write about other subjects than the pandemic. I have received some good feedback; if you have any suggestions please let me know.

Pastors Lundwall and Moran and I were finally able to make hospital and LTC visits. This is an important part of our ministry, especially when it involves helping set up hospice care, which I did this year. Please let me or Norma know if you're having surgery or are in the hospital so that spiritual care can be provided for you.

The Emergency and Preparedness Team did not meet in 2022. But, Tom Klomp and I attended the Active Shooter-Emergency Response and Stop the Bleed class. We also attended a new ecumenical program - Safeguarding the Sacred at St. Jude's Catholic Church. Our team is looking for new membership and hopefully a person to take over leadership.

I apologize that this is so long, but I want you all to know everything that is happening at LMC and what is available for you to participate in. Please think about volunteering in any way you can. It is so rewarding!

As LMC members we have continued to adapt to all the changes we have experienced. Will this be the "new normal"? Only God knows. So we will continue to pray for God to help us be a strong and caring faith community. It's our belonging to a faith community that gets us through the difficult times. I personally know that this is true.

Peace and Blessings,

*Linda Graffius, RN, Faith Community Nurse, Coordinator of Care and Health Ministry*

*Jan MacInnes, Assistant Coordinator of Care and Health Ministry*





## *LUTHER MEMORIAL RECHARGE MINISTRY*

### *ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022*

Luther Memorial ReCharge is an exciting worship ministry, and it continues to grow and touch many people. We have moved into our 6<sup>th</sup> year with our group after much prayer, planning and faith, and we have formed a wonderful community within our walls on Sunday evenings.

2021 brought about many changes as we adjusted to routine social distancing, illness, new band members and learning how to get back to “normal” as a society. What we have found is that God continues to show up and provides us with surprises and strength to continue on, no matter what.

We have expanded the walls of Recharge to areas of our community and have dubbed the “Love Your Neighbor” campaign as an outreach to areas in need. We have partnered with the Erie Little Food Pantry group to provide hygiene and food supply. We have collected animal items and sent to the Anna Shelter and continue to support the Bethany Outreach initiatives. Each month, we have a different theme and donation site and will continue this viable giving opportunity.

We continue to pursue options to share God’s Word through music and fellowship with outdoor activities and we were able to be outside several times this year. We were also able to do Christmas Caroling with the Erie Downtown Partnership in December and enjoy some ice skating in Perry Square with the kids.

ReCharge takes planning and the willingness of many to make it possible. We would like to thank our ReCharge praise band and team for continuing to put Christ at the center of their lives and providing this outreach to others. A special thanks to Michael Snider for stepping up to assist in keeping ReCharge afloat during our pastoral transition. Thank you to all those for their support and gifts they give to ReCharge.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sarah Prylinski*





***REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR***  
***LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY***  
***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

As we celebrate our 46<sup>th</sup> year, there have been a few changes that help us continue on a recovery path from COVID by bringing back old traditions and new innovations. I am our new Administrator, taking over with plenty of support and guidance from Christopher Paul and Susan Belott. The teaching staff and church staff have been invaluable with this transition.

Our new teachers include Cheryl Caram in Kindergarten, Karen Socash in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Rebecca McCormick in 5<sup>th</sup>, all of whom not only share their extensive experiences in education, but also bring their gentle and caring spirits to us. Additionally, AJ Noyes is sharing her tremendous experience with the entire school with special classes, including physical education, guidance/health, music, Spanish (K-5). Ms. Chludzynski has taken on Spanish for middle school, also. We have been blessed with Gretchen Wolford, Susan Lerie, and Jan Birkner who keep the library up to date.

Reviving traditions includes Luther Memorial Sunday. The Thanksgiving Feast, with Sally and Phil McAfee and a host of volunteers, a delicious Thanksgiving meal was prepared. It was still pared down with students and staff only, but we were all together in Fellowship Hall. Some classes have been combined for specials, K-5<sup>th</sup> Buddies, and lunches, and the children are continuing to practice safety protocols. Christmas carols were enjoyed together to send all off with joy for the break. Middle school dances, sports programs, concerts and plays are back on the schedules. Plans are being made for bringing back the middle school Ash Wednesday Retreat, too.

New additions include Student Council, The Lion's Roar newspaper, programs highlighting Children's Grief Awareness (The Caring Place), Kids Heart Challenge (American Heart Association), and service hours for all grades.

Like other private schools, our enrollment is lower than last year, but we are encouraged by interest for tours and shadowings. Luther Memorial Church has been a vital and treasured support for Luther Memorial Academy, and we are indebted to all who have supported us.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**  
BECKY CAREY, Administrator  
AMANDA FRIED, Office Manager

**TEACHING FACULTY 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

CHERYL CARAM – Kindergarten.	KIM EVANS – Grade 3
KATIE ROMBA – Grade 1	KAREN SOCASH – Grade 4
BETH KELLER – Grade 2	REBECCA MCCORMICK – Grade 5
IMARII ANDERSON – Grade 6 Homeroom, English, Reading	
AMY GILEWICZ – Grade 7 Homeroom, Social Studies, Study Skills, Art, middle school gym	
CARYN CHLUDZYNSKI – Grade 8 Homeroom, Science, Math, Middle School Spanish	
AJ NOYES – Specials: PE, Health/Guidance, Genius Hour, Music, Spanish K-5	
GRETCHEN WOLFORD, SUSAN LERIE – Librarians	
STEPHANIE SHERWOOD – Act 89 Reading	
JODY DONOVAN – Act 89 Math (Kdg. – Grade 6)	
CHRIS MUSI – Act 89 Math (Grades 7 & 8)	
MIRIAM SCHEID – Tech Support and Financial Support	

LMA Administrator Report, cont'd.:

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

JIM WERTZ – President

M. J. HOWELL

JOHN BARTLETT

SHANNON MCADOO - Secretary

NATALIE MONTERO

MIRIAM SCHEID – Treasurer

MICHAEL MCCORMICK

KATIE ROMBA – Teacher Rep.

M J HOWELL-Emeritus

BECKY CAREY, LMA Administrator

\*Board Projects: Bylaws, technology upgrades; vision planning; recruitment/retention of staff and students; COVID protocols

**VOLUNTARY HELEN SCHADE LIBRARY STAFF:** PAT YOUNG

**BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM:** CARYN CHLUDZYNSKI

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** BETH KELLER – Coordinator  
CARYN CHLUDZYNSKI

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Evangelical Lutheran Education Association

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5

First Lego League

**PARENT/TEACHER LEAGUE:**

KIM WERTZ – President

BREAUNA HIGGINS – Vice-President

AMANDA FRIED – Secretary

ANNA WILLIAMS– Treasurer

BETH KELLER – Teacher Representative

**PTL ACTIVITIES:**

Graduation Reception, Capital Purchases for Classroom, Playground, teacher support. Family Bingo Night, Corn Hole Tournament, Ice Cream Days & Hot Dog Lunches

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:**

Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas Caroling, Science Fair, LMA Geography Bee, Challenge 24, Read Across America, Kindergarten and Grade 5 Buddies, Field Day, Lego League, Student Council, Sports: Basketball, Cross-Country, Football, Swimming

**SCHOOL PROJECTS:**

“Kids for Kids”  
Service Hours Grades K-8  
Second Harvest Food Bank food drive  
Hat/gloves/scarves collection for Bethany Outreach Center  
“Deck the Halls” hallway decoration contest  
“Childhood Grief Awareness” The Caring Place  
“Kids Heart Challenge” American Heart Association  
Annual Christmas Santa Shop  
Ash Wednesday Retreat  
Used Printer Cartridges Collection  
School Spirit Days to support Luther Lion at the Erie Zoo

**GRADUATION AWARDS:**

George E. Black Award for Most Outstanding Student  
J. David Mumford Award for Academic Excellence  
Helen Schade Award for Academic Fitness  
Alice Engel Extraordinary Effort Award  
Susan M. Belott Christian Service Award

**THRIVENT GIFTING PROGRAM:**

Thrivent Financial helps LMA through the “Thrivent Choice” program. This program allows members to direct funds to LMA. It is not a matching program, but rather a direction donation to our school. We count on members to keep us in mind and are very grateful for support.

**SCHOLARSHIPS/MEMORIALS:**

Library development, improved curriculum, and financial aid to students are dependent upon the generosity of others. LMA is indebted to the Women of the ELCA, Thrivent, and individuals and families who have been generous to us. The EITC and OSTC Programs, crucial to us, allows tax deductions for businesses that contribute to us solely for the purpose of financial aid for our families.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Becky Carey*





**BETHANY OUTREACH CENTER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

Life change happens here because  
of your ongoing support.

Our Mission: Bethany Outreach Center impacts Erie's lower eastside neighborhood by providing services and teaching skills to underserved families that will lead them to a path of positive life change.

There were **6,459 visits** to our pantry serving **2,481 family members**

**Clothing Closet**

There were **2,111 visits** made to our closet by **1,170 unduplicated family members**. We received over **25,220 pounds of clothing and household goods**.

**Project Partners who've shared their Time, Talents, Ties and Treasures:** Second Harvest Food Bank, Highmark, Country Fair, Erie Insurance, Lord Corporation, Cornerstone Construction, Pathstone, Mercyhurst University BTG Program, Mercyhurst Sports, Erie Federal Credit Union, LCBA Branch 49, Erie City Mission, Erie County Department Of Health, Panera Bread, Life Works, WQLN, St. Bens Education Center, Crop Walk for Hunger, EMTA, Hamot Health Foundation, Erie Day School, Barber National Institute, M.A.B.E.L. ~Mind And Body Education Link, Women of ELCA, ServErie, Luther Memorial Academy, The Erie Community Foundation Youth Philanthropists~ HEY! Hear Erie's Youth, Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, LCBA Corporate Branch of Erie, Pennsylvania, UMPC, BOMBA's, GURDWARA SIKH CULTURAL SOCIETY, Erie Crawford Central Labor, Sisters of St. Joseph, Emmaus, Various Churches, Regional Camp Service Day, Students of Gannon University, & Logistics Plus Inc. Mt. Ebal Missionary Baptist Church

**The Annual Turkey Man Drive:** Made possible by Second Harvest Food Bank, Erie Insurance, Cornerstone Construction, and a wealth of volunteers throughout the community who believe in the importance of helping those in need. In November, **34** volunteers came to unload the truck, distribute and deliver food including turkeys to **165 families** in efforts to help them to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner at home.

**Corporate Matches:** Erie Insurance, Thrivent Choice Program, and The Erie Community Foundation.

New wellness program introduced to the community with a focus on two healthy living components. Physical Activity and Nutrition. Program sponsored by ECLA



**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHANGING LIVES.

A very special thank you to our HOPE TEAM: Organizations, Businesses and Individuals contributing \$5000 or more in 2022: Luther Memorial Church, Luther Memorial Congregation, MORLIN, Inc. and MORLIN Inc. All of our donors, large and small as well as our volunteers, make it possible for Bethany Outreach Center to continue on with its good work.

**Board Members:**

**Executive Team:**

Carol Gleischner  
President

Casey Hedlund  
Vice President

Marnie Brown  
Secretary

Eric Hedlund  
Treasurer

Brenda McBride

Tim Ward

Nik Zaphris

Ron Oliver

Jim Horvat

Patricia Bellingham

**Executive Director**  
**Mabel Howard**

**Executive Director:** Mabel Howard  
Location: 254 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 1503  
Website: [www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org](http://www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org)

**Executive Assistant:** Luanne Churchill  
Office Phone: 814-456-6254  
Email: [mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org](mailto:mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org)



***LMC PROPERTY COMMITTEE***  
***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

The year 2022 saw the final steps in the demolition of the Western Motel. It was a great day when you drove west on 10<sup>th</sup> Street and could see all of Luther Memorial Church and Academy. This project became very involved as the Property Committee explored plans for the future use and development of the greenspace. Items considered were:

Lighting  
Parking  
Tree Planting  
Irrigation

Signage  
Mural on the wall of the Renew Building  
Pavilion for outside worship, concerts, etc.  
Prayer Garden

With these ideas in mind the Property Committee hired Mike Sanford Surveying to prepare a plan for the property. We began submitting the plans to the city for their approval and to apply for permits for the parking lot and lighting. Bids have been received and approved by Council for the lighting on the 10<sup>th</sup> Street side of the sanctuary and the east side of the parking lot and the school and Renew Erie Building. These lighting improvements are designed to enhance the overall appearance of Luther Memorial and to make our facilities and property safer. The lights and poles have been ordered and will be installed as weather permits.

The next important part of the plan is to provide additional parking. These plans will be submitted to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, as well as proposed costs.

A thank you to the Property Committee members who have planned the proposed improvements to the greenspace as well as overseeing repairs and maintenance for Luther Memorial Church. Members are:

David Buerk  
John Evans  
Les Fobes  
Jeanne Gaber  
Mark Howell

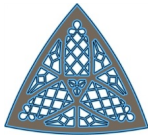
Tom Klomp  
Miriam Scheid  
Jeff Swanson  
Don Tatar

A special thanks to the family of Bill Schaal, Jr. for contributing the money from his memorial fund to cover the cost of the new exterior lighting. Our gratitude also goes to the members of Luther Memorial who contributed toward the purchase and demolition of the hotel.

General maintenance for the church year 2022 consists of \$71,503.39 including:

Slate roof repairs – \$1,600  
Heating and ventilating repairs and maintenance – \$20,612  
Panic bars on the east narthex door – \$2,115  
Plowing – \$5,652,  
Rekeying the building locks – \$3,410.

*Les Fobes*



## ***LUTHER MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES*** ***ANNUAL REPORT 2022***

During 2022, the Luther Memorial Concert Series (LMCS) committee members included: Pat Bellingham, Molly Gaber, Walt Gaber, Brian Hubbard, Greg Kern and Mark Lechner.

Obviously, the pandemic severely impacted our ability to present any programming. The last event we were able to present was a Bach Cantata Vespers service/concert a few days before the pandemic reached our community in March 2020.

Due to the unknown and ever-changing timetable for the progression and eventual resolution of the pandemic, we did not announce specific plans for a 2020-2021 season. We continued to monitor the spread of the disease and the vaccination program, but hesitated to resume gathering, rehearsing, and performing for an audience while the public at large was vulnerable to the virus. Your support throughout this time was greatly appreciated and will be necessary to fully resume this ministry.

### **Bach Cantata Vespers**

We have not presented any Bach Cantata Vespers (BCV) programs since March 8, 2020 immediately before the pandemic. Plans began for two Bach cantatas in the 2021-2022 season, but both of those were postponed while we sought clarity around the rehearsal and performance of choral concerts post-pandemic. Similarly, we thought we might be able to resume in the autumn of 2022. However, our choir has not returned to a strength sufficient to prepare these to the level of quality we expect. With my ever-present optimism, I have some hope that we will see these return in 2023.

Previous BCV services involved the Luther Memorial choir and several choristers from throughout the community. We believe that this is a niche in the Erie music and worship community that is particularly apt for Luther Memorial. We can celebrate and present our heritage while providing a welcoming and worshipful setting for some of the greatest sacred music created.

After abbreviated **Christmas Eve concerts** in 2021, the 2022 Christmas Eve concerts returned to their 30-minute format with the performance of several Christmas carol arrangements by Jonathan Gaber (*cello*), Barb Moore (*flute*) and Walt Gaber (*piano*).

### **Conclusion**

The Luther Memorial Concert Series wishes to thank all those that have supported us through the years – through your attendance, compliments to the musicians and through your generous financial gifts. Our challenge to you – please expand this ministry of Luther Memorial by inviting a friend or family member and attend more of our concerts.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Walt Gaber*

***“We believe art feeds the spirit.”***



## ***WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE*** ***ANNUAL REPORT - 2022***

The mission of the Worship and Music Committee is to *“plan the meaningful celebration of Word and Sacrament according to the Lutheran tradition.”*

Members who served on the committee during 2022 include:

Pr. Karen Lundwall  
Jessica Copfer  
Cathie Dugan

Pr. Brian Moran  
Joanne Dahlstrand  
Les Fobes

Cantor Walt Gaber  
Mary Daniels  
Betty Pletz

It is with much hopefulness that we come together this year for our annual meeting. A year ago, we were still worshipping online and conducting many of our meetings via Zoom. We were also working on the seemingly endless process of completing the paperwork needed to call a new pastor. It felt like that day loomed so far in the future. And look at us now! We are joyfully gathering in person, and are anticipating Pastor Jay Mitchell joining us in March. The committee would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Lundwall, Pastor Moran and Michael Snider for the time and thoughtful care you have given to ministering to the congregation during this challenging time. It is much appreciated.

The worship and music committee met seven times this past year, reviewing past practices, and considering new ideas in order to enhance the worship experiences at Luther Memorial. The committee oversees the liturgical procedures and resources needed for our services, and oversees the aesthetics of our worship spaces.

There are many people whose efforts make our worship life run smoothly. A very well-deserved “thank you” to Norma, for all the work you put into coordinating many key components. In addition to producing our weekly bulletins, Norma coordinates the schedules for all worship related elements and personnel. Thank you to Walt for all the thought you give to making the music for our services meaningful and timely, and for your guidance as we navigated the many worship-related “bumps in the road” while online, and as we resumed in-person worship. Thank you also to the many others who offer their gifts to our worship life as assisting ministers, lay distributors, communion assistants, altar guild members, musicians, lectors, and online camera operators. Thank you to Miriam Scheid and Sarah Prylinski who coordinate the ReCharge services, and to Loretta Deeds, who coordinates the lectors. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you also to Les Fobes, whose attention to the details of the aesthetics of the sanctuary are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Caiden Snider and Mitch Stroup as well, who are always on the spot, taking care of all manner of things that need to be done. There are many others who carry on their own quiet work all around us, often without having to be asked, and just because they see a task needs to be done. To you we owe a word of gratitude as well.

This year, we want to especially express our gratitude for the life of Mark Lechner, whose love of Luther Memorial Church was expressed in many ways. Even as he dealt with health issues, Mark stayed involved with worship and music by writing the interesting bits of information in our bulletins about our liturgy and the hymns we sing. For many years before that, though, Mark was a dedicated member of the choir and the handbell ensemble. He was the choir librarian, a member of the concert committee, and twice participated on the teams to purchase or upgrade our organ. He had been a member of the Worship and Music Committee for more years than anyone can remember, and was able to answer questions about things that had happened in years long past. A conversation with Mark always brought enlightenment. His presence will be greatly missed. Rest in peace, dear friend.

We know we will be going through some changes as we move forward with a new pastor, but the one thing that remains steadfast is the strength we have together as a church family. We care deeply for each other, and we care deeply for the ministry and traditions of Luther Memorial Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cathie Dugan*

# *EVANGELISM / HOSPITALITY* *ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022*

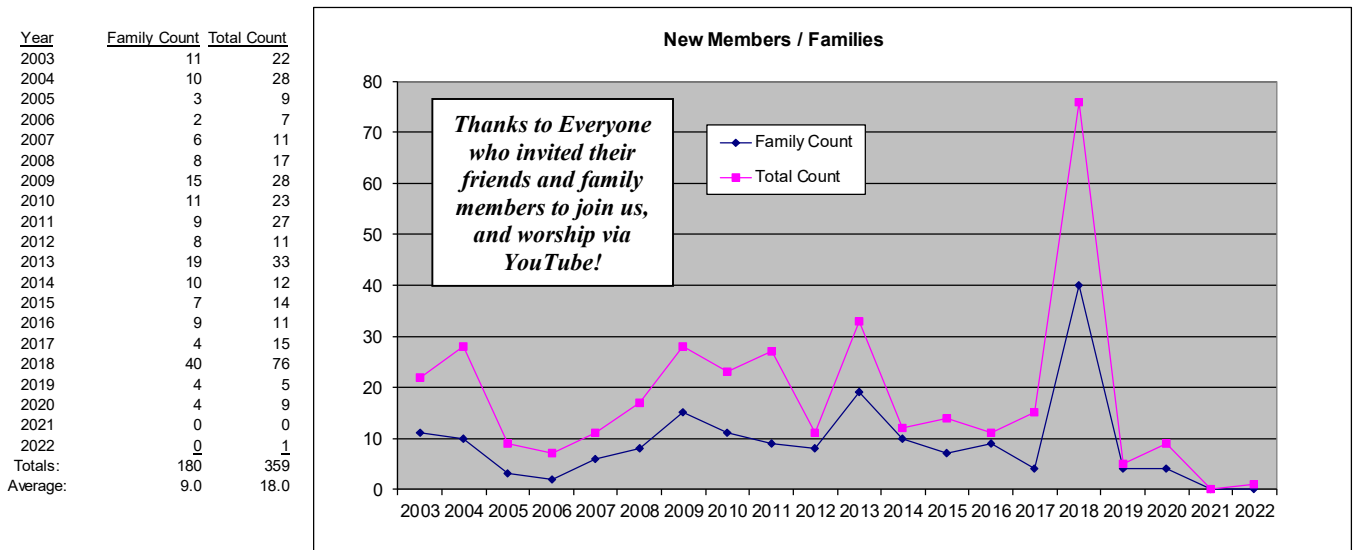


## Evangelism / Hospitality Committee Members:

Pat Bellingham	Mike Daniels	Casey Hedlund	Jeff Swanson
Vicky Blasco	Ann Flick	Eric Hedlund	Linda Swanson
Cheryl Brown	Les Fobes	Michael Hedlund	Lee Swenson
Montie Collier	Lois Fobes	Brian Hubbard	Pat Young
Shirley Collier	Lynnette Gustafson	Jan MacInnes	

In Mid-March 2020, because of the situation with COVID-19, we stopped performing our normal weekly “Hospitality” duties greeting folks warmly as they arrive and engaging visitors or others who are new to our church. It will be a goal this year to revive “Hospitality” and possibly collaborate with other groups who help to greet folks entering our church each week.

- 1) New Member received in 2022: Colleen Lasher
- 2) New Members / Families through 2022



- 3) Even though we did not receive many new families this year because of the Covid pandemic, there were certainly bright spots:

- We had 34 people volunteer as Ushers, and many, many as Greeters
- Average attendance before Covid in 2019 was 165 / week. In **2022** if we include YouTube as well as in-person attenders, average attendance was 138 / week. So, it was down but not terribly bad.
- We had 4 Baptisms in 2021:

Kennedy Duran  
Karissa Henry

Autumn Meyn  
Mason Henry

Evangelism/Hospitality, cont'd.:

4) Thank You!

- To the Greeters and Ushers who volunteered during this year and periods when we were having socially distanced church services.
- To Norma – who organized and made sure we had Greeters and Ushers for all of the services!
- To Staff members and Congregation members who took the time to invite acquaintances from the school, their friends, and family members to join us – at church or on YouTube or Facebook Live!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Eric Hedlund*



“You mean we’re supposed to go into *all* the world?  
We better start tweeting it!”



## ***LITURGICAL LIFE***

### ***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

Our 10:30 Sunday morning worship services continue to be live streamed and are available on our Luther Memorial website and YouTube. Presently only five (5) volunteers rotate Sunday mornings to live stream our service. Additional help would be greatly appreciated and you are welcome to contact our church office for more information. Check with one of those who currently help; it's not hard and you'll pick it up in a snap.

We thank Pastor Lundwall, Pastor Moran, and Michael Snider for their continued leadership in our worship services. Pastors Lundwall and Moran have also presided at special services, as well as funeral services. Michael has led us in praise at our monthly ReCharge contemporary services. Their guidance has been so important to Luther Memorial.

The liturgical calendar continues to be followed throughout the year and paraments changed accordingly.

The Christmas trees in the main church were set up, as well as trees and decorations throughout the building. Thank you to David Buerk, and our security team, Caiden Snider and Mitch Stroup, for their assistance with this.

Thank you to each and every one for their help this year. It was certainly needed!

#### **VIDEO OPERATORS – LIVE STREAMING**

Christy Adams  
John Bartlett

Beth Keller  
Sarah Prylinski

Gina Snider

#### **LECTORS ~ 10:30AM**

Christy Adams  
Diane Banks  
Jack Bartlett  
Tessa Bartlett  
Pat Bellingham  
Brody Carolus  
Monique Crocket  
Mike Daniels  
Loretta Deeds  
Gianna DiTullio  
Cathie Dugan

Ann Flick  
Les Fobes  
Patricia Gilbert  
Linda Graffius  
Eric Hedlund  
Bill Lasher  
Roberta Lobaugh  
Pam Masiroff  
Linda Meleragno  
Cathy Meyn  
Jane Moran

C. Noelle Partusch  
Kara Partusch  
Krista Partusch  
Lois Smith  
Michael Snider  
StanRose  
Marilyn Rositer  
Jonathan Ulrich  
Ellie Werts  
Jeana Williams

#### **ASSISTANT MINISTERS**

Pat Bellingham  
Rob Benacci  
Emma Chaffee  
Ellen DiPlacido  
Julie Ditz  
Cathie Dugan

Dave Griswold  
Mark Howell  
Roberta Lobaugh  
Jan MacInnes  
Pam Masiroff  
C. Noelle Partusch

Stan Rose  
Lois Smith  
Michael Snider  
Elizabeth Stroup  
Linda Swanson

Liturgical Life Committee, cont'd.:

**LAY DISTRIBUTORS**

Mary Daniels  
Ann Flick  
Linda Graffius

Tom Klomp  
Martha Klomp  
Jan MacInnes

Stan Rose

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Cheryl Brown  
Mary Daniels  
Cathie Dugan  
Ann Flick

Dave Griswold  
Elaine Kern  
Martha & Tom Klomp  
Jan MacInnes

Sally McAfee  
Stan Rose  
Linda Young

**ACOLYTES**

Serving as an acolyte is an important part of our worship. We thank those that served during our services. A special thank you to Jessica Copfer for serving as our acolyte for a great number of Sundays! If your son or daughter would like to serve as an acolyte, please see Beth Keller or contact Norma in the church office.

Jack Bartlett  
Tessa Bartlett  
Marshall Boyd  
Mitchell Boyd  
Jessica Copfer  
Gianna DiTullio  
Jasmine Eagle

Tucker Galloway  
Tyler Galloway  
Ella Graffius  
Evelynn Graffius  
Grace Graffius  
Marian Graffius  
Gia Fracassi

Cecilia Montroy  
Noah Montroy  
Austin Nickerson  
Kara Partusch  
Krista Partusch  
Jeana Williams

**ALTAR GUILD**

Altar Guild volunteers prepare for the celebration of communion. Many adjustments to preparation have taken place over the past few months and we thank our altar guild for their continued patience and understanding. Communion by cup is done each Sunday.

Nancy Benacci  
Sharon Burke  
Jessica Copfer  
Mary Daniels

Loretta Deeds  
Cathie Dugan  
Dave Griswold  
Martha & Tom Klomp

Pam Masiroff  
Jane Moran  
Donna Sedelmyer

Many thanks is extended to all the volunteers for their help; our church needs each of you. Your dedication always glorifies God and makes Luther Memorial Church a warm and beautiful setting for worship. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Norma Buerk*



***'FEED MY SHEEP' FOOD MINISTRY PROGRAM***  
***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

Our Food Ministry Program completed 10 years of service to our congregation in 2022! This year 29 freezer meals were provided by participating volunteers. If you are interested in helping out with either food preparation, assisting at funeral luncheons, or know of someone within our church community who could benefit from this service, please contact Norma in the church office at (814-454-0106) or Elaine Kern at (814-392-7189) or by email: [elaine.kern@roadrunner.com](mailto:elaine.kern@roadrunner.com).

We are always grateful for new participants!

Only two in-person funeral luncheons were held in Fellowship Hall in 2022.

*Elaine Kern*  
*'Feed My Sheep' Food Ministry Coordinator*



***IN MEMORIAM***  
***NOVEMBER 1, 2021– NOVEMBER 1, 2022***

KEVIN KRAUT  
ROBERT PETERSON  
PASTOR ALBERT GESLER  
PASTOR ROY WASHILL  
JOAN PRYLINSKI  
SHIRLEY YOUNGBERG  
ROSE HILL  
MILDRED NODES  
BARB HOLCOMB  
RICHARD LECHNER  
JEAN JOYCE  
RICHARD THORN

BOB WEISMAN  
JIM BROWN  
JEAN HEDDERICK  
ROSANNA STRAUSBAUGH  
DON TATAR  
DOROTHY RESPECKI  
DOROTHY OVERBERG  
JEFFREY BENSON  
BOB SADOWSKI  
MARILYN SCHULTZ  
JIMMY FISHER





***CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE***  
***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

Once again, the annual report for Congregational Life is condensed because of Covid restrictions in the early part of 2022. Once restrictions were lifted, and we were allowed to gather again safely, we began planning some events. We eased back in, after a two year absence, with our Fall 'Octoberfest' Tureen in Fellowship Hall. Attendance was not back to where it should be but we were grateful for those that attended!

The second event was our Holiday Coffee Hour in December. It felt good to see everyone linger after both services and mingle again with each other!

We are looking forward to getting back to 'normal' in 2023 starting with our 'Souper' Bowl Tasting February 5. Please join us after the late service in Fellowship Hall!!

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Elaine Kern*

2022 CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sandy Barbaro

Les & Lois Fobes

Judy Johnson

Elaine Kern

Tom & Martha Klomp

Kathie Kraut

Roberta Lobaugh

Jan & Skip MacInnes

Cathy & Skip Meyn

Lois Smith



## ***ALTAR FLOWERS*** ***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

Flowers add that touch of beauty to our worship, and thanks to many the attractiveness of our weekly altar, front altar and columbarium flowers continue.

Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar on Sunday is welcome to call the church office. Front altar and columbarium flowers are also available on any Sunday. If you would like flowers for a Sunday morning please contact our church secretary, Norma Buerk.

Flowers not taken by those who sponsor them are delivered to those in the hospital, homebound, to celebrate an upcoming birthday, or someone who could use a smile. A visit and a friendly face go a long way for those who are unable to get out, see their friends and attend church.

Altar flowers that are delivered:

- Betty Pletz delivers flowers on the second Sunday of each month.
- Diana Alvaro delivers flowers for the remaining Sundays.
- Linda Graffius delivers flowers when making visits if possible.

Thank you to:

- Diana Alvaro for the preparation of containers for weekly deliveries.
- Volunteers for their help with delivery of cheer baskets and cookie bags to our homebound.

**Donations** of flower vases, juice containers and contact paper are always welcome for the weekly deliveries and may be dropped off in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Norma Buerk*

## ***SUNSHINE COMMITTEE*** ***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***



Thank you to the Sunshine Committee gals, for all the cards they signed and addressed to our church members/friends, which in 2022 was composed of the following volunteers – Norma Buerk, Coleen DiCenzo, Jane Kinzig, Lois Smith and Pat Young.

The main purpose of the Sunshine Committee is to try to give a little “*sunshine*” to our homebound folks with a few cards sent to them during the year. Cards are sent to the hospitalized, to homebound folks and other senior members for different occasions and holidays (sometimes just to say we’re thinking of them), birthday cards to those celebrating their yearly milestones, and sympathy cards to those who have had a loss in their family.

We are always grateful for donations to our card supply, and if anyone feels so inclined, we will also take donations for mailing all those cards. Through the Sunshine Committee just over 350 cards were sent out in 2022 – and that’s a LOTTA postage! Donations of cards or monetary gifts may be dropped off in the church office or given to Pat Young at any time throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Patricia Young*  
Committee Chairperson



**WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
OF THE LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH UNIT**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022**

*Our motto: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, our society, and the world!*

All Luther Memorial women are considered members of W/ELCA, and are encouraged to attend any of our monthly Circle meetings, and/or the two General Meetings held each year, usually in April and October.

Any profits from our usual small fundraisers are put to good use, assisting the work of the W/ELCA at Luther Memorial and on the Synod and National level. Yearly gifts have been given to City Mission, Bethesda/Holy Trinity Community Center, Bethany Food Bank, Bethany Outreach Center, confirmation retreats, and Luther Memorial Academy, with the monetary gifts continued even tho' the past couple years we've maybe not met quite as often, especially during the pandemic.

Our two (2) circles did again fill 40 Christmas stockings/gift bags for Warren State Hospital residents this past November...and Tea Bag Invites continued to be given to any woman who joins the church during the year. Last summer our two (2) Circles joined together for lunch and wine-tasting at Ferrante's Winery, over in Ohio, and we join together for our General Meetings.

For *many* years we have supported the "Pennies for Poverty" project – having canisters at all church entrances for people to throw in their change or dollar bills. This past year the Bethany Outreach Center was the "21" recipient. The 2022 year recipient has not been chosen as yet. We have also supported for several years, mostly through Pat Bellingham's many efforts, the Human Trafficking issue in the Erie area, and awareness of same, through outreach and education work locally and throughout our NW PA Synod Women's Organization, and also the Lily Project. We will also be supporting Rachel's Garden – more of that coming up in 2023.

Officers for 2022: Pat Young – President; Mary Mumford – Vice President; Pat Bellingham – Secretary; Betty Pletz – Treasurer. The leader for the Tuesday Afternoon Circle was Pat Young and for the Deborah Circle, Judy Johnson.

Thank you to all who support Women of the ELCA for your service and dedication. We invite any and all women, regardless of age, to join one of our active Circles. Both meet on the first Tuesday of the month. The Deborah Circle meets at 12:00 noon in the parlor and the Tuesday Afternoon Circle meets in the parlor; mid-afternoon.

Come see what we're about! Check the monthly church newsletter for news and times of our meetings. See you there?!!

God's blessings,

*Patricia Young*

President, Luther Memorial Congregational Unit

## ***WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

### ***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022***

The Synodical Women's Organization of NWPA is slowly getting back on it feet as a:  
Community of Women created in the image of God  
Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,  
And empowered by the Holy Spirit

Social Justice continues to be a focus in all parts of our Synod with our work in the anti-human trafficking initiatives;

- The SOAP Project, Saving Our Adolescents from Prostitution, and TAT, Truckers Against Trafficking. Over 15,000 bars of soap labeled with an anti-human trafficking message have been delivered by our synodical women to public restrooms, motels, convenience stores, truck stops, and casinos. The labels are affixed to the bars of soap by retired Sisters of St. Joseph, our own LMA school children, youth groups, and church organizations. Have all 15,000 bars saved a child? Probably not, but if it saves one, it will be worth it.
- Truckers Against Trafficking has supplied free of charge materials from their BOTL program, Busing on the Lookout. A folder of posters, guidance and a DVD training program for school bus drivers has been delivered to over 25 school districts in our Synod.

The Lily Project has been revived with a new site starting at the medical center in Punxsutawney. That makes 5 hospitals that deliver a gift bag of new undergarments and a message of hope to women who have been assaulted and receiving care at their local hospital.

In September, our NWPA women gathered with our Sisters from SWPA for our annual retreat at Lutherlyn. What a wonderful time we had renewing friendships and sharing God's Word. There's something about Lutherlyn that brings peace and contentment to your soul. Perhaps it's being outdoors, maybe it's the friendship, or maybe it's the time to be able to take in the Holy Spirit. For whatever reason, it's always a great weekend.

At the retreat our Women voted to align themselves with the 5 geographical regions of the NWPA Synod. Presently, we were divided into 4 conferences but it made more sense to be organized as the Synod is.

May 12-13 are the dates set for our Women's Convention. It will once again be held at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow, PA. Registration information will be sent out in February.

Here at Luther Memorial, we have a committee of women, Mindy Boyd, Christy Adams, Natalie Bartlett, Danielle Graffius, Gina Snider, Meghan Snider, and Amy Swenson-Haight, that are working on Rachel's Day, a time to acknowledge the devastation of gun violence in our communities. From the book of Jeremiah, Rachel wept greatly for the children who were killed and she would not be comforted. Women of the ELCA typically commemorates Rachel's Day on the first Sunday in May. Our group is looking to use a section of the new green space for a prayer garden specifically dedicated to the victims of gun violence from the Erie area. We've been collecting ideas to use in the garden to eventually make it a community resource.

Peace, through Christ,  
*Pat Bellingham*, President  
Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA

