

*ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING*



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

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

JANUARY 28, 2018

AGENDA
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2018

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1. Devotions
2. Declaration of a Quorum
3. Appointment of a Secretary
4. Appointment of Tellers
5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda
6. Report on Approval of the January 29, 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

B. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

1. Nominating Committee Report
2. Nominations from the Floor
3. Ballot Distribution and Voting
4. Announcement of Results

C. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

D. A BRIGHT GLOWING FUTURE... A DISCUSSION OF WHAT MIGHT BE COMING

E. REPORTS OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

1. Reports
2. Motion that Reports be Accepted and Placed on File

F. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. 2018 Budget

H. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Be it resolved:

1. That the proposed budget for 2018 be accepted.
2. 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, 2018.
3. We express our thanks to all members of the congregation who served so faithfully in our church during 2017, especially those members of Congregational Council completing terms of service; Frank DiCenzo, Jesse Graffius, Eric Hedlund, Bill Lasher and Stan Rose.
4. That we also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our 2017 staff: Julie Baldwin, Susan Belott, Jan Birkner, David Buerk, Norma Buerk, Becky Carey, The Reverend William E. Coleman, Michael Donch, Jody Donovan, Nancy Drury, Kim Evans, Amanda Fried, Jeanne Gaber, Walt Gaber, Amy Gilewicz, Linda Graffius, Tammy Hayes, Elizabeth Hokaj, M. J. Howell, Beth Keller, Ron King, Charlie Lintelman, Catherine MacGregor, Jan MacInnes, Natalie Montero, Christine Musi, Christopher Paul, Sarah Prylinski, Katie Romba, Miriam Scheid, Kathryn Schultz, Annette Stover, Dawn Weborg, Caryn Wells.
5. That the Council be authorized to act on the report of the auditor when completed.
6. 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.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH STAFF

THE REVEREND WILLIAM E. COLEMAN	PASTOR
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
CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL	ADMINISTRATOR LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY
AMANDA FRIED	SECRETARY LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY
DAVID BUERK	MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
CHARLES LINTELMAN	SUNDAY MORNING / WEEKLY SECURITY

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STAN ROSE PRESIDENT	LES FOBES VICE-PRESIDENT
ERIC HEDLUND SECRETARY	GREG KERN TREASURER
PATRICIA YOUNG ASSISTANT TREASURER	
PATRICIA BELLINGHAM	JOHN BARTLETT
VICKY BLASCO	BARBARA CHAFFEE
REV. WILLIAM E. COLEMAN	FRANK DICENZO
JESSE GRAFFIUS	BRIAN HUBBARD
KENNETH KRAUT	BILL LASHER
DOROTHY OVERBERG	JOHN TELL

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2017

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – at 11:50 am

1. Devotions – prayer was led by Pastor Coleman
2. Declaration of a Quorum – by Stan Rose
3. Appointment of a Secretary – Mark Lechner was appointed
4. Appointment of Tellers – Bill Lasher and Beth Keller were appointed if needed
5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda – motion made by Les Fobes seconded by Sandy Barbaro; motion carried.
6. Report on Approval of the January 24, 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes – Approved by council on February 9, 2016

B. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

1. Nominating Committee Report –
 - a. Patricia Bellingham, Barb Chaffee, Natalie Montero, Les Fobes and John Bartlett are newly nominated for 2017.
2. Nominations from the Floor requested – none made
3. Ballot Distribution and Voting – motion made to close nominations and to elect all candidates in the report – made by Skip MacInnes and seconded by Marilyn Rositer; motion carried unanimously.
4. Announcement of Results – all nominees were elected

C. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES / VOTING MEMBERS TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY – Turned over to church council for action in the Spring

D. LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH 'S EVANGELISM – “Unbinding the Gospel – Real Church Evangelism”

1. Points made:
 - 1) Evangelism is about bringing new people into church
 - 2) People who evangelize are motivated by
 - a) Love of church
 - b) Loving relationship with God
 - 3) As a congregation we're pretty good at hospitality but that's different than evangelism.
2. References: None

E. REPORTS OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES –

1. Reports
2. Motion that Reports be Accepted and Placed on File – made by Ken Kraut and seconded by Carol Schaal; motion carried unanimously.

F. ELCA CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES PER THE 2016 CHURCH-WIDE ASSEMBLY – Presented by Pastor Coleman. No action required; for information only.

G. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. 2017 Budget was presented by Greg Kern

2017 Annual Minutes, cont'd.:

H. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

The motion to adopt the 2017 proposed budget was made by Ken Kraut seconded by Les Fobes; motion carried unanimously.

Here are the additional proposed resolutions:

Be it resolved:

1. That the proposed budget for 2017 be accepted.
2. 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, 2017.
3. We express our thanks to all members of the congregation who served so faithfully in our church during 2016, especially those members of Congregational Council completing terms of service; Richard Braendel and Mark Lechner.
4. That we also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our 2016 staff: Julie Baldwin, Susan Belott, Jan Birkner, Jackie Breter, David Buerk, Norma Buerk, Becky Carey, The Reverend William E. Coleman, Michael Donch, Jody Donovan, Nancy Drury, Kim Evans, Amanda Fried, Jeanne Gaber, Walt Gaber, Linda Graffius, Tammy Hayes, Elizabeth Hokaj, M. J. Howell, Beth Keller, Ron King, Charlie Lintelman, Catherine MacGregor, Jan MacInnes, Natalie Montero, Janel Murphy, Christine Musi, Christopher Paul, Sarah Prylinski, Katie Romba, Marilyn Rositer, Miriam Scheid, Kathryn Schultz, Annette Stover, Dawn Weborg, Caryn Wells.
5. That the Council be authorized to act on the report of the auditor when completed.
6. 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 adopt all resolutions – was made by Emma Chaffee and seconded by Ken Kraut; motion carried.

Motion to adjourn – was made by Jan MacInnes and seconded by Jack Tell: Motion carried.

***NOMINATING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017***



The Nominating Committee, formed ad-hoc at the October 2017 meeting of Church Council, was asked to seek church members willing to stand for election to Church Council at the annual meeting on January 28, 2018. The committee members were Greg Kern, Pastor Coleman, and John Tell.

Frank DiCenzo, Jesse Graffius and Brian Hubbard have finished their first 3-year terms. Eric Hedlund and Stan Rose have finished their second 3-year terms. Bill Lasher has finished his 1-year term replacing Natalie Montero.

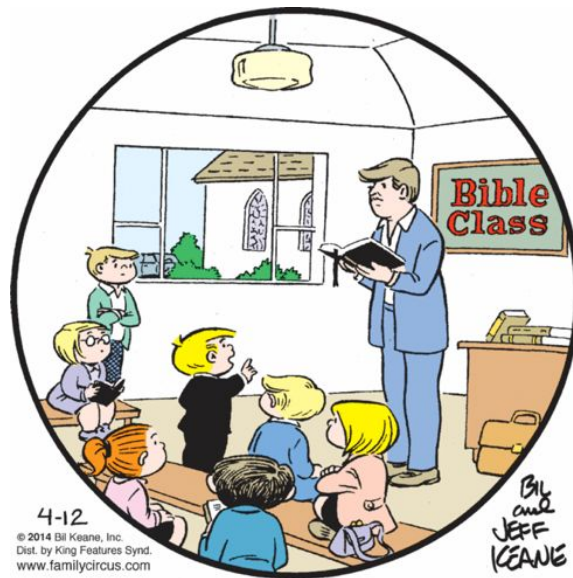
A total of 11 members of the congregation were asked directly to run for positions on council. The following members have agreed to become nominees for the six available positions for Luther Memorial's Church Council:

ANN FLICK
MARK LECHNER

MARK HOWELL
LORI PERRY

BRIAN HUBBARD
CARTER SOLT

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Kern
Nominating Chair



4-12
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“It would’ve been quicker if Paul just posted his letters to the Corinthians on his Facebook page.”



*REPORT OF THE
CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017*

Like so many people, I keep a date book on my desk where I write in appointments and other important information that regulates my life and keeps me focused on what I have to do and where I have to be. For the past six years, a “church council meeting” entry has appeared in my calendar on the second Tuesday of every month. For the last four of those six years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as the president of the council and so, that second Tuesday entry has taken on even more significance. With the submission of this report, I will step down from the council and take a break from the awesome responsibility of leading the Luther Memorial Church Council. A simple “thanks for the opportunity to serve,” seems to me to be inadequate in expressing what it has meant to me to serve as president, so I will take this opportunity to more fully comment on what it has meant to be the president of Luther Memorial Church.

The first thought that comes to mind when I think about having served as president is that I am just the latest in a long line of committed and faithful disciples who have sat where I did. The more than 150 years of faithful ministry that have occurred at Luther Memorial Church stand as a bold testament to those many leaders who have shepherded the work of the congregation for so long. I pray that my term of service complemented theirs and that the continuum of meaningful ministry has continued.

Although the president of the council certainly brings some influence and direction to the work of the congregation, it would be foolish to think that any one person should take credit for what is accomplished. It is the collective wisdom and cooperative effort of the dedicated folks who accept the call to serve on the church council that drives the mission of the church forward. At Luther Memorial we are blessed with many committed members who answer the call to serve and it has been my honor to work hand in hand with them for these past many years. I want to say a special thanks to all who have served with me. I commend them all for their faithful service and their positive and cooperative spirit as they have confronted the challenges and opportunities that have come our way.

I would be remiss if I did not lift up Pastor Coleman and the entire Luther Memorial staff and recognize their selfless gift of themselves. I’m sure every one of them would say they are simply doing their jobs, but I can assure you that, to a person, they all go far beyond what is a reasonable expectation in their job descriptions. We are blessed by the work that they do and on behalf of the entire congregation I want to say a heartfelt thank you to them all.

I’ll not try to enumerate all the accomplishments of this past year but I would like to highlight a few projects that were addressed by the council and the impact they have on the future ministry of Luther Memorial. First, after exhaustive study, and with the occurrence of some fortuitous coincidences, Luther Memorial was able to purchase the small organ that now resides in our chancel. As we had hoped, the organ is proving to be a wonderful addition to our worship experience and an invaluable addition to our growing music ministry. This new instrument in conjunction with the tiling of the front of the sanctuary that was completed a couple of years ago has enhanced the quality of sound significantly whenever there are small group musical presentations that occur at the front of the church. We extend thanks to Cantor Walt Gaber and all who were involved in bringing the new organ to us.

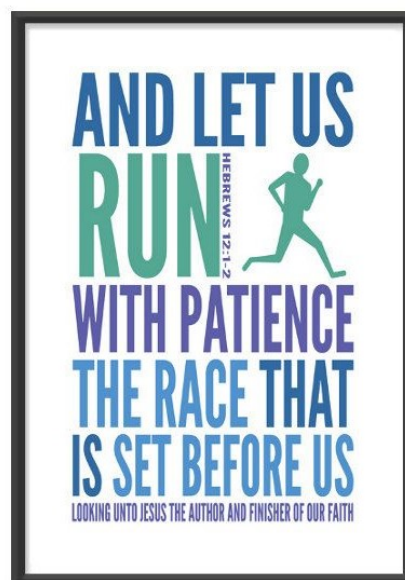
Church Council President, cont'd.:

A second project that was under consideration for the entire year is the upgrading of our sanctuary sound system. After a tremendous amount of study, the council decided to move forward with a major upgrade that will result in a far better worship experience for all. The actual work should begin in a few weeks and our expectation is that the final result will be appreciated by all. The options that will become available to us in terms of how worshippers hear the spoken words and the music will be well worth the wait. Again, thanks to all who served on the various study groups that resulted in the recommendation to proceed.

Finally, I would like to lift up one other project that was under consideration by the church council this past year. The long range study and visioning process began early last spring and through the tedious and tireless work of many members both on and off the church council, a document that lays out some possible future plans for the congregation's ministry was produced just before the end of the year. The council has already started to work on some of the ideas that were put forth and I expect that this work will continue with the new council that takes its seat next month. It is one more example of the forward looking view the leadership of the congregation has and I believe the future mission of Luther Memorial Church is on solid ground and in good hands. Again, thanks to the many, many people of Luther Memorial who participated in this project.

As I leave the council and the office of president, I just want to say that I have been humbled by the opportunity to lead and serve with the dedicated and committed group of people who have shouldered the responsibility of church council leadership at Luther Memorial Church. I believe it is a great time to be the church and I look forward to continuing to be a part of a congregation that is clear eyed and positive in its mission of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Erie community. God has truly blessed us and I give thanks for all we do in being a part of God's ministry.

Peace and Power to all at Luther Memorial Church,
Stan Rose
Church Council President





REPORT OF THE PASTOR
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

I thank each of you for this past ministry year, and from the bottom of my heart, I thank Luther Memorial's Church staff for their continued efforts and faithfulness to the work of this ministry. I am so fortunate that I work with such wonderful, talented and caring group of people. I truly feel a part of a very special team. I am grateful to be pastor at Luther Memorial Church, and I give thanks to God I have been called by God to be your pastor. I would also like to say thanks our church council, all church committee members, and congregational president Stan Rose for his steady leadership and faithful leadership. Stan has finished his term as council president, as well as Eric Hedlund, as church council secretary.

I have admitted before that writing my annual report is very difficult because I share so many of my thoughts with you during the year in council reports, newsletter articles, committee meetings and weekly sermons. So I will allow the entire Annual Report to speak for itself as a reflection of the work God has done through us this past year, give thanks for it, and prepare for a new year. I do ask that everyone read all the reports, and I encourage you if not already, to get involved with a group or committee. If you need some direction, just let me know, and I would welcome sitting down and talking with you.

Because hearing and being led by God are very important things we do here, I looked back at a few of my sermons this past year to share a few thoughts from them, hoping they remind us of our calling to love God and neighbor.


Sermon Thoughts from 2017

"We have learned a lot of things, many of them helpful and important, but there are still gaps in our knowledge. We can learn a lot about the God who made everything, but we can't be sure what kind of God it is. And so, why we are a part of this community of faith is to bring our un-interpreted experiences of the world to the Scriptures that are kept and interpreted in this place, and then we listen to how the Word of God speaks to those specific life experiences."

"The story of the blind man coming to sight gives us pause to ask ourselves: How well do I see? Do I see what is really going on in my life? Has a road I have been traveling on taken an unfamiliar turn and I've lost my way? Are things happening to me that make me trip and stumble like a person walking and groping in the dark? The blind man's story replays our own, because whether you feel it or not, we have made the same journey he did. We were led to a pool of water, washed there and words were spoken over us, "I baptize you...." and in this moment long forgotten by many of us.... began the journey guided by the sight we received in those waters... for in baptism, we have been given a clearer sight to look at our world."

"Luther goes on to say that by repentance is a kind of truth-telling that allows us to be honest about how we are deceiving ourselves, or letting ourselves be deceived by the world, that gives us an opportunity to think and speak and act differently, or, to put it another way, to live in freedom. The Gospel does its saving work because it demands that we come clean about our need, which isn't easy for self-made men and women to admit."

Peace to you,


William E. Coleman, Pastor



***REPORT OF THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017***

As always, I must begin by thanking you for your continued support of the ministries of St. Matthew's and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches these past five years. Your support enables these two ministry sites to continue to provide important outreach to the neighborhoods in which they are located, as well as to the entire City of Erie. Your good wishes, thoughts and prayers are sustaining to both myself and your sisters and brothers in Christ in these congregations.

St. Matthew's has hosted a neighborhood outreach in the form of monthly meals on Friday evenings, picnics and a Christmas Party. The congregation continues to reach out to the community, as we say to them as Philip said to Nathanael, "Come and see." (John 1:46). St. Matthew's continues to host the GECAC Headstart programs that serve 180 children every day during the school year, and numerous 12-Step programs.

St. Matthew's during the past year has begun discernment conversations regarding the future of the ministry at that site. We ask for your prayers as we continue these discussions, and seek to discern the Lord's guidance as to the place and purpose of this ministry.

Holy Trinity hosts the Tuesday evening Pasta Kitchen (serving 60-80 each week), the Soup Kitchen on Wednesdays and Saturdays at noon (20-40 each day), with a Food Pantry on Tuesday evenings, and a Clothes Closet on Tuesday evenings, and at the Saturday Soup kitchens. The kitchen ministry is coordinated by a volunteer from Lamb of God Lutheran, and 100% of the people working in this food preparation ministry are from the wider ecumenical community. The food pantry and clothes ministries are coordinated by Holy Trinity members. There is also a "Sloppy Joe" dinner the last Thursday of each month hosted by local congregations (LM is there, too, in April, please come and join!). There has been a Wednesday evening outreach for the young people of the neighborhood that has 10-20 attending each week, and there are 12-step programs that are hosted as well.

The continuation of these ministries is a result of your vision and willingness. Please know that both congregations truly appreciate 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, it is a joy, an honor and a privilege to come and lead worship at Luther Memorial quarterly, when Pr. Coleman goes to St. Matthew's and Holy Trinity. I cannot say it often enough, thank you again and, peace and blessings to each and every one of you; in Christ,

Ron King



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY
ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

The following Christian Education groups, programs and special events continued in 2017:

Children’s Church	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
Super Wednesdays	Soup and Salad/Cookout Luncheons
Camp Lutherlyn	LYO Service Sunday
Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO)	Gods Work, Our Hands

The Cradle Roll is overseen by Jeanne Gaber

The Baby Blanket deliveries are overseen by Linda Graffius.

The following were new or occurred in 2017:

- Fundraising for the LYO will continue and planning has begun for the next National Youth Gathering which will be in Houston, Texas in June 2018.
- No youth attended the Lutherlyn Winter Retreat in 2017.
- The LYO (grades 7-12) continues to grow as does our Children’s Church.
- The groupings of our ministries are as follows: Pre/LYO (K-6) and LYO (7-12)
- Our nursery continues to be overseen by Tyler Keller
- Children’s Activity bags are available at Hospitality tables each Sunday for our children to use during worship services.
- The men’s softball team completed a fifth and final season with MMCSL.
- A Corn Hole Tournament in September did not occur due to lack of participation. We hope to continue this fun event in fall 2018.
- The Care Squad this school year (17/18) is teaming up with the Magic Fingers Grace Group and the VA Hospital thanks to Jan MacInnes and Linda Graffius.
- Volunteer opportunities have been available at different times and in different locations this year, such as The Overflow Shelter, ServErie and Gods Work, Our Hands.
- Service Sundays with the LYO continue to look for opportunities to serve members of our congregation in 2018.
- The LYO held a one-day indoor yard sale as a fundraiser and did well. They will continue to keep this event as a great way to clean out your old items and make some money for the NYG.

Report of Christian Education, cont'd:

- We continue to be in contact with our friends in Corry, Pastor Brian Eiss and in Warren, Pastor Jeff Ewing.
- Plans have begun for Vacation Bible School in the summer of 2018. Date to be announced.

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. We will not remember to list everyone and for that we apologize. The following are some of the people who helped in the area of Christian Education in 2017.

Frank, Coleen, and Caleb DiCenzo	Maria, Ali, and Rebecca Brown	Chris, Roberta, and Michael Paul
M.J. and Mark Howell	Norma and Dave Buerk	Eric and Cindy Hedlund
Charlie and Rose Lintelman	Ron and Denise King	Tracy Heutsche
Alexandra Turowski	Asha Herba	Pastor Brian Moran
Beverly Held	Pastor Roy Washill	Bonnie Silvis
Lynnette Donnelly	Jan and Skip MacInnes	Tim and Megan Houston
Jerry and Beth Keller, Anna and Tyler Keller	Cathy MacGregor	Heidi Heilman
Grace Petron	Pastor Richard Schultz	Renee and Ian Steff
Natalie Montero	Pastor Erik Young	
Maureen and Elvin Montero	Pastor Kristen Papsen	Terry and Liz Hokaj, Luca Hokaj
Kathy Sahlmann	Brooke McCall	C. Noelle and Krista Partusch
Jen DiTullio	Elaine Kern	John and Judith Steff
Kathy and Don Weisman	Cathie Dugan	Mike Weber
Stacie and Tony Shchouchkoff	Shannon McAdoo	Sharon Burke
Holly Bebko	Pastor Kim Hirsch	Rose-Marie and Stan Rose
Pastor Bill and Amy Coleman, Emma and Brennan Coleman	Miriam Scheid	Amy Scott
Les and Lois Fobes	Caryn and Alex Wells	Pat Young
Alisyn Rogan	Richard, Chase and Sutton Rowland	T.J. and Sarah Prylinski
Pastor Jeff Ewing	Jessica Copfer	Diane Giannelli
Pastor Brian Eiss	Walt and Jeanne Gaber	Peyton Thomas
Loretta Deeds	Barb Grande	Ann Flick

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Keller
Sarah Prylinski



CANTOR'S REPORT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

“We proclaim the Word of God through Music”

I would like to thank all of those who have participated in and helped lead our worship through music.

The core of our music ministry is found in the adult choir, which rehearses over two hours a week. The following participated regularly for all or part of 2017:

Bob Banks	Jonathan Gaber	Janice MacInnes	Ella Santillano
Pat Boyd	Molly Gaber	Skip Meyn	Solveig Santillano
Doug Chaffee	Ken Kraut	Brian Moran	Amelia Smith
Emma Chaffee	Mary Laver	Rose-Marie Rose	Carol Smith
Cathie Dugan	Mark Lechner	Kathy Sahlmann	Pat Young
Jenna Fiacco	Cathy MacGregor		

The handbell choir also faithfully rehearses every week. The following participated regularly for all or part of the year:

Bob Banks	Cathie Dugan	Mary Laver
Pat Bellingham	Jenna Fiacco	Mark Lechner
Pat Boyd	Jeanne Gaber	Amelia Smith
Emma Chaffee	Jonathan Gaber	Pat Young
Lynnette Donnelly	Molly Gaber	

New choir members are always welcomed. 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 and our voices. Also know that you do not need to commit to full participation – we would welcome a shorter commitment by joining the choir for a single season (e.g. Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter).

You should have noticed by now that the choir sings from the front of the church more frequently. A few years ago, Pastor Coleman requested that this occur on a regular basis to increase the musical communication between the choir and the congregation and more closely engage all of us in worship. Most choir members will admit that they found this more intimidating than singing from their familiar (*and nearly invisible*) perch in the balcony. However, that sentiment has shifted such that they are now even suggesting some anthems that they would prefer to sing from the front. I credit two things for this change in confidence:

- 1) The new tile floor makes it much easier to sing as an ensemble from the front – the previous carpet absorbed so much of the sound that everyone felt exposed and unable to hear the choral blend.
- 2) Your response as a congregation has been very positive and supportive. Please continue to let our choir members know that you appreciate their talents, dedication and desire to support and enhance your worship at Luther Memorial.

Cantor's Report, cont'd.:

I would like to thank the instrumentalists that have added color to our worship. During 2017, these included:

Bob Banks	Saxophone
Cathie Dugan	Timpani
Jenna Fiacco	Flute
Jonathan Gaber	Cello
Linda Melaragno	Violin
Skip Meyn	Clarinet
LeAnne Wistrom	Flute
Erik Sundet, Brian Hannah, Kent Tucker, Mark Dressler	Brass Quartet

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.

There have been some interesting developments concerning the organs at Luther Memorial in the recent past. 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. We also have a very 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. A missing component had been a small "choir" organ for the accompaniment of the choir at the front of the church, especially for music such as the Bach cantatas and other choral works composed for organ and voices. This was resolved in 2017 with the purchase of the small pipe organ built by Organ Supply Industries of Erie. We all owe a big "Thank You" to the John and Gertrude Petersen family for funding the purchase of this instrument through a generous donation in support of worship and music at Luther Memorial.

After 35+ years of service, our handbells were sent to the Malmark factory for a complete refurbishment this past summer. The bells were dismantled, polished, reassembled and adjusted. We are working diligently to preserve their like-new shine as we play them throughout the years.

Kathy Sahlmann and Rose-Marie Rose have continued working with the children's choir. Throughout 2017, the children have sung in the 10:30 service – often on "pineapple" Sundays. Rose-Marie Rose has also provided solo vocal selections for the Blue Christmas service and funerals.

C. Noelle Partusch has regularly brought dance students from Mercyhurst to add liturgical dance to some of our services including processions on Palm Sunday and Reformation Sunday. She also has interpreted the Lord's Prayer via dance. Her student, Grace Petron worships with us regularly and has provided choreographic leadership for the Liturgical Dance Ensemble.

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. Cathie has also been diligent as the librarian of our choral library.

Mark Lechner provides the weekly commentary in our bulletins for all of the hymns that we sing. He suggested the addition of this feature a few years ago and has faithfully researched and written the notes that provide interesting background to poetry and music of each hymn. Every few months, someone mentions their appreciation of the background provided for the hymns we sing.

Cantor's Report, cont'd.:

Thanks to David Ruler for serving as substitute organist/cantor this past year.

Our Concert Series continues to be the only one of its kind in the region. Its mission statement ends with "We believe art feeds the spirit." Committee members during 2017 include: Pat Bellingham, Molly Dugan, Brian Hubbard, Greg Kern and Mark Lechner.

I continue to serve as the Dean of the Erie chapter of the American Guild of Organists. This is a small group of organists, educators and fans of the organ who are part of a national organization that provides communication, education, performance opportunities and concerts in the realm of organ music. I have been asked to sit on the NWPAs Synod Worship & Music committee which meets several times during the year to plan and evaluate synod-wide worship services. In October, I served as cantor/organist for the synod's celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville. Our choir and a few members of the Holy Trinity choir provided leadership throughout the service. A brass quartet provided additional festival emphasis with much of the special music also incorporated into the 10:30 Reformation Sunday service at Luther Memorial.

Music is strong at Luther Memorial; indeed it 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 for any that I have overlooked in this report. I thank all of those that have offered words of encouragement and appreciation over the past few 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 –



"He's here to hit the high notes."



CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY *ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017*

God has continued to bless us during 2017. He has enriched our Caring and Health Ministry in many ways.

Our Magic Fingers Grace Group of wonderful crafters continues to grow in members and projects. They are making beautiful prayer shawls, prayer crosses, hats and mittens. The hats and mittens are given to the students at McKinley school and also to Bethany Outreach Center. They also make tiny hats and blankets for NICU babies at UPMC-Hamot. In addition to sharing the prayer crosses with church members in need, they are also taken to the oncology infusion center at UPMC-Hamot. Jan volunteers there and also provides the Word in Season devotion booklets. The hospital's administration has recently become aware of this project and they are thrilled! It warms our hearts that all of these items are helping others! She also takes these items to the VA hospital where they are much appreciated. These items were blessed at two services during the year.

The OWL's, Older Wiser Lutheran group, continues to grow and enjoy each other's company. We had a "lunch and learn" and Linda presented safety in your home and how to get up from a fall. We had a wonderful picnic on Presque Isle on a beautiful summer day. In October we held a "lunch with Luther" and watched the latest video about Martin Luther. This was followed by a question and answer with Pastor Washill. Then in December we had our delicious Christmas lunch. Skip Meyn played his clarinet and challenged us to a "name that carol" contest. Walt led us in a carol sing. Fun was had by all!

Many wonderful items were collected in December for the active duty military and residents at the VA hospital. Thirty four boxes were sent overseas and we heard the group was amazed and thrilled to receive them. What a wonderful outreach!

We have experienced quite a few deaths of church members and care recipients. We send sympathy cards, Stephen Ministry grief books and cards to family members on the one year anniversary of their loved ones death. We held our 5th annual Blue Christmas service in December. Some people from outside Luther attended and appreciated the beautiful service. This service included a healing anointing along with one other healing service during 2017.

Our prayer team continues to be very busy praying for our members and others who need our prayers. Linda and Jan have taken over from Pastor as leaders of this group.

Pastor and Linda continue to visit members who are hospitalized. Pastor will meet and pray with anyone who will be having surgery, and Linda will meet with them to help with navigating the medical system. Linda has helped several members with finding help for in-home care.

Linda continues to write a monthly health article for the newsletters of Luther Memorial, St Mathew's and Holy Trinity.

Our Care Ministers continue to visit members who are home bound or unable to get to services regularly. If you know anyone who would benefit from a visit please contact Linda.

It has been a busy year for the Care and Health Ministry of LMC, and we are excited about this ministry within the church and also the community outreach.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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 2017

Luther Memorial ReCharge is in its second year, and it has been an exciting one. We have moved from a pilot phase to a new ministry opportunity and have found that with much prayer, planning and faith we have formed a wonderful community within our walls on Sunday evenings.

ReCharge continues to be held the first Sunday of each month and begins with a delicious meal, fellowship and activities from 4:00-5:00pm. A contemporary worship service is held from 5:00-6:00pm. Our music is led by a very dedicated praise band and videos selected by Pastor Coleman are often used as part of the service. A different theme is selected by Pastor Coleman for each ReCharge service and, of course, there is a message for our children as well. There are many that enjoy a contemporary style worship service, and we have seen faith deepened and friendships made.

The past year has seen new membership, baptisms and community outreach. Three outdoor worship services were held during the summer providing outreach to our downtown neighbors while enjoying hotdogs, corn hole games, hula hooping and blessing of our pets. Christmas was celebrated with a puppet show prior to worship.

We look forward to continuing our growth over the next year and partnering with area agencies such as ServErie and Habitat for Humanity wanting to be the hands and feet of Jesus wherever possible.

As with any ministry, 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 Pastor Coleman for guiding us in this new venture. Thank you to Charlie Lintelman for his assistance at our services and to all those for their support and gifts they give to ReCharge. We are excited to see where the next year takes us and welcome you to join us.

Pastor Bill Coleman	Terry and Luca Hokaj	Brooke, Mattix and Lincoln McCall	Brad & C. J. Galloway
Sarah and T. J. Prylinski	Miriam and Jeff Scheid	Cassia and Zach Cabaday	Reigna Hoyt
Sutton, Chase and Rich Rowland	Jim and Melanie, Maria and Roman Criswell	Elvin Montero	Tracy, Hannah, Delilah and Sullivan Heutsche
Ernest Muscella	Matthew Yost		

Many lives are being touched by this ministry and some of their thoughts are shared below:

“The reason I enjoy the ReCharge service is because the music and lyrics are very inspirational. The social hour before the service is a good way for people to get to know each other. Sarah Prylinski and her crew do such an excellent job putting it together. Like always, Pastor Coleman has a way of making ReCharge much different than the usual mass. The musicians are really great.”

Thank you, Elvin Montero

Luther Memorial ReCharge, cont'd.:

“As a life-long, dyed-in-the-wool Lutheran, I love our liturgy, the gorgeous sanctuary, and the beautiful music that inspires us. And when Sarah would invite me to RECHARGE each month, I would smile politely and say ‘I’d try.’ But, one sunny Sunday afternoon I decided I could fit it in and I went to my first outdoor RECHARGE service. To say it was a service, doesn’t quite encompass what actually happens at RECHARGE. We played bean bags, I embarrassed myself thinking I could still do the hula hoop, and had a barbecue. We worshipped and communed with some folks that I knew and some that I didn’t. We were fed - mind, body, and spirit. I imagined Jesus there, and knew that He would be well pleased. I went back.

The second time RECHARGE was indoors. A wonderful meal had been prepared and dishes shared with one another. We sat on folding chairs in Fellowship Hall – where fellowship was abundant. Individuals came because they wanted to praise God, they asked for forgiveness, and said thank you for blessings. Some didn’t know what or how to pray. Some of us have been faithful our entire lives but for some, this is the first time they have learned about the love of God through a community of faith. How awesome is that?

Contemporary worship may not be for everybody. I still love our traditional Sunday worship. I get goose bumps when Cathy rolls out the timpani during Hark, The Herald Angels. But I would encourage everyone to experience RECHARGE at least once. It is a viable ministry of Luther Memorial Church. It reaches out to many in our community who have not experienced the love of God or who may need to see Him in another light.

Sarah, Miriam, and all who make RECHARGE a wonderful ministry at Luther Memorial, well done, good and faithful servants. Our heartfelt thanks for your dedication.”

Peace, through Christ, Pat Bellingham

“I really like the mix of a traditional service with more contemporary music in a relaxed setting. There has been considerable effort made to create a sense of fellowship and community among those attending. While I have attended the meal ahead of time, I am sure that this contributes significantly to an even greater sense of community. I like that a mix of people and ages are included with responsibilities throughout the service. This sends the message that, not only are all ages welcome, but all ages are an important and valued part of the group.

I have appreciated the months when someone has given a personal testimony. While I understand not everyone would be comfortable doing this, myself included, it does help to encourage and support others who might share in the future. It also creates a sense of personal relationship that many would be able to relate to.

I must add that one thing I have noticed is a different sense or “feel” to the worship experience when Pastor Coleman comes out from behind the lectern to lead the worship. When he has done this, it definitely gives worship a more personal feel. He is speaking more to me as opposed to speaking at the group.

I enjoy attending this worship and find it personally fulfilling. It has been worth the drive from North East.”

Kathy Schultz, LMA Teacher

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Prylinski



***REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017***

It is an honor to be in my first year as the Luther Memorial Academy Administrator. School and church staff have been wonderful in helping make my transition into this role as smooth as possible. We are so fortunate to have a caring, supportive group of people! We look forward to celebrating our 42nd year.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

REV. BILL COLEMAN, Pastor
CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL, Administrator
AMANDA FRIED, Secretary

TEACHING FACULTY:

KATHRYN SCHULTZ – Kdg.	KIM EVANS – Grade 3
KATIE ROMBA – Grade 1	ELIZABETH HOKAJ – Grade 4
BETH KELLER – Grade 2	BECKY CAREY – Grade 5
JULIE BALDWIN – Grade 6 Homeroom, English, Reading	
AMY GILEWICZ – Grade 7 Homeroom, Math, Social Studies, Study Skills	
CATHERINE MACGREGOR – Grade 8 Homeroom, Science, Math, Art	
DAWN WEBORG – Music	
CARYN WELLS – Middle School Health and Guidance	
CARYN WELLS – Kindergarten – Grade 5 Guidance	
CARYN WELLS – Physical Education, Spanish	
JAN BIRKNER - Library	
NANCY DRURY – Speech	
TAMMY HAYES – Pupil Services, Reading	
MRS. JODY DONOVAN – Pupil Services, Math (Kdg. – Grade 6)	
MRS. CHRIS MUSI – Pupil Services, Math (Grades 7 & 8)	
MIRIAM SCHEID – Tech Support	

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

RICH STROBEL – President	NATALIE MONTERO
ANNA MEZZACAPO – Vice-President	MIRIAM SCHEID – Treasurer
M. J. HOWELL	DR. KEVIN RAMEY
SHANNON MCADOO - Secretary	JAMES WERTZ
PASTOR BILL COLEMAN	
CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL, LMA Administrator	
CATHERINE MACGREGOR – Teacher Representative	

*Board Projects: Pulakos Candy

Report of the LMA Administrator cont'd.:

VOLUNTARY HELEN SCHADE LIBRARY STAFF: JILL WEBER & JOANN GUILIANELLI –
Library Aides

VOLUNTARY PRIMARY AIDE: MARION (M. J.) HOWELL

VOLUNTARY CLASSROOM READER: DOROTHY RESPECKI (Grandma Dot)
DONNA SEDELMYER

BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM: CARYN WELLS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: BETH KELLER – Coordinator
KIM EVANS
KATHRYN SCHULTZ
ANNETTE STOVER
CARYN WELLS

VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: LATECE JONES

Print Cartridges Cellphones Boxtops for Education
Campbell, Swanson, Betty Crocker and Pepperidge Farms Labels

MEMBERSHIPS:

Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5
Catholic Diocese Sports, Independent Basketball League
Drug Free Schools
Environment Erie
First Lego League

PARENT/TEACHER LEAGUE:

STACY SHALLENBERGER – President
LYNZIE PROTHERO – Vice-President
DEBBIE GROSS – Secretary
HOLLY BEBKO – Treasurer
STACY SHALLENBERGER – Fundraising
LATECE JONES – Book Fair
CATHERINE MACGREGOR – Teacher Representative

PTL ACTIVITIES:

Christmas Fair, Label/Tape Counting, Lunch Counting, Ice Cream Social, Skating Parties, Fundraisers, Ice Cream Sales, Graduation Reception, Middle School Parties, Hot Dog Lunches, Refreshments, Thanksgiving Dinner, Kids for Kids, Candle Sale, Romolo's Easter Candy Sale, Spring Flower Sale, Capital Purchases for Classroom, Playground.

Report of the LMA Administrator cont'd.:

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Science Fair, Class Plays, Thanksgiving Dinner, required attendance at LMA Sunday, Christmas Program, Spring Program, Geography Bee, Environment Erie, Challenge 24, Read Across America Day, Middle School Aluminum Recycling Project, Caring Team, Sports Programs, School Spirit Days, Kindergarten and Grade 5 Buddies, Field Day, Talent Show, Lego League (winner of 2017 Research Award), Forensics.

SPORTS COMMITTEE

COACHES – 2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR:

RICH STROBEL	Basketball
TONY SHCHOCHKOFF	Basketball
TREVOR CHRISPEN, JONATHAN BAKER	Soccer
AMANDA FRIED, JENA GONZALEZ, CHRISTOPHER PAUL	Fundraising

SCHOOL PROJECTS:

Campbell, Swanson, Betty Crocker, and Pepperidge Farms Labels (saved for educational materials)
“Kids for Kids”
School Spirit Days to support Luther Lion at the Erie Zoo
Used Printer Cartridges Collection
Field Trips
NED Show

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 no longer provides matching funds from donations given to Luther Memorial Academy on LMA Sunday. The company will continue to help LMA in a different manner, based on request of product owners. We will be dependent on a “Thrivent Choice” program. This program allows members to direct funds to LMA. It is no longer a matching program, but rather a direction donation to our school. We will count on members to keep us in mind. We 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 Program is crucial to us. In this program businesses contribute to us solely for the purpose of financial aid for our families.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher A. Paul, Administrator

The Annual Report 2017



Executive Director:

Mabel Howard

Executive Assistant:

Luanne Churchill

Board Officers:

President~ Debra Galloway

Vice President~ James Reese

Treasurer~ Rev. Bill Coleman

Secretary~ Eric Hedlund

Board Members:

Carol Gleichsner

Dan Roll

Douglas M. Massey

Edward Whitbred

Marnie Brown

Sharon Kreese

Bethany Outreach Center
254 East 10th Street
Erie, PA 16503

Phone: 814-456-6254

mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org

www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org

A commitment from the heart of our new Executive Director~ Mabel Howard

"I am grateful to have obtained a position that will allow me to utilize my various skills and expertise. My acceptance of this position is my personal commitment to enhance the lives of underserved children and families that live in the lower east-side communities. My personal vision is to help in restoring hope to every individual that comes through our doors by reminding them through acts of kindness that they not only have the ability to #doBetter, but also the world is a better place because of their presence in it." #EveryoneMatters



A special thank you to Luther Memorial Church for your ongoing love and support of the center. We appreciate your willingness in helping to provide a solid foundation that we can and will continue to build upon. Life change continues to happen in the Erie Community because of the BIG hearts of the members that belong to your congregation. Your financial contribution is changing lives and the ongoing volunteers that are sent have been... #priceless

Summary of Signature Programs

The Food Pantry: There were 4,390 visits to our pantry by 1705 unduplicated clients.

The Clothes Closet: There were 4,291 visits made to our closet by 3,357 unduplicated clients. We received over 38,759 pounds of clothing and household goods.

#IMPACT Afterschool Teen Program: Offered on Wednesday evenings from 3:30pm to 7:00pm. There are 48 students enrolled into the program with an average attendance of 17 to 20 youth.

Storytime Saturday Reading Program: Offered in the Spring and Fall for youth ages 3 to 10 years old. 11 families attended in the spring and 12 families attended in the Fall. 156 books were distributed to the youth and made possible by Hooked on Books.

***1840 households** took advantage of programs at the center in 2017. Over **227 unduplicated** volunteers gave **9,765 hours of their time** to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Bethany Outreach Center, cont'd.:

New Signature Programs are listed below. We are looking forward to sharing the details in our next report.

#IMPACT Leadership #IMPACT Your Spirit #IMPACT Your Health



Donations, Grants and Gifts

Platinum	\$15,000 and up
	Luther Memorial Church
Gold	\$10,000 to \$14,999
	Erie Insurance Giving Network
	TANF
Silver	\$5,000 to \$9,999
	Northwestern PA Synod
	Luther Memorial Members
	Erie Gives
Copper	\$1500 to \$4999
	MORLIN Inc.
	Marilyn A Swanson Irrevocable Trust
	Lord Corporation Good Neighbor Fund
	Highmark

Contributions Continued: Church World Service Crop Hunger Walk, Women of ELCA, Messiah Lutheran, VASA, Wesleyville American Legion, Red Hot Mamas

Corporate Matches:

Erie Indemnity~ Erie Insurance, GE Community Foundation, Thrivent Choice Program

Service Learning Partners:

Erie Insurance, Lord Corporation, Mercyhurst University, Barber National Institute, CC Center, Perseus House, and ServErie

Other Project Partners Include:

Second Harvest Food Bank, Cornerstone Construction, Pathstone, GECAC Service America, Edinboro University, LCBA Branch 49, Millcreek Kiwanis, Rock Of Ages Compassionate Ministry, Preferred Systems, Saint Vincent Mobile Van, Opportunities Unlimited, Panera Bread, VISTA, Life Works, Erie Federal Credit Union, WQLN Back to School Event and Early Connections

Bethany Outreach Center, cont'd.:

Donors of the 2017 Bethany Bash Fundraiser: Allburn Florist, Annie Simon, Barb Watkins, Bayfront Sheraton, Beechwood Golf Course, BrewErie, Calamari's, Carol Licata, Caroline Wolff, Champion Ford, Cindy Hedlund, Country Fair, Inc., Courtyard Marriot Erie Bayfront Hotel, Dairy Queen at Pine Ave., Doug Cornelius Agency, Ed and Carol Whitbred, Edible Arrangements, El Canelo, Erie Beer, Erie Events, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Sport Store, Erie Zoo, Faith Lutheran Church Women, General Exterminating and Outdoor Services, Greater Erie Auto Auction, Greater Erie Community Action Center (GECAC), Harborcreek Giant Eagle, J & R Sports Den, Jack Frost Donuts, Kang/Shell Food Mart, Kerr's Tire Corner, Kiwanis Club of Millcreek Area, Lamb of God Church, Laser Eye Surgery, LCBA Branch #49, Les Fobes Interiors, Luther Memorial Lutheran Women, Mabel Howard, Marco's, E 38th Street, Marnie Brown, Meeker-Marshall's, Mighty Fine Donuts, Northwest Bank, Nunzi's Restaurant, Patty's Pizza, Pepsi Beverages Company, Presque Isle Downs & Casino, Ricardo's Restaurant, Rock Of Ages Compassionate Ministries, Romolo's Chocolates, Sara Zyniewicz Hair Salon, Sara's Restaurant, Seiferts Furniture, Shirley Fiolek, St. John's Lutheran Church Women, St. Paul's Lutheran Church Women, St. Steven's Lutheran Church Women, Stan's Garden Center, Urban Erie CDC / EF Smith OLLC, Wegmans Erie - Peach Street



Signature Holiday Turkey Distribution:

Made possible by **Second Harvest Food Bank, Erie Insurance** and a wealth of volunteers throughout the community who believe in the importance of helping those in need. In November, 73 volunteers came to unload the truck and distribute food including turkeys to 151 families in an effort to help them prepare Thanksgiving dinner at home. Students from the **#IMPACT Leadership Program** also came together for the same day to maximize the efforts of the volume of volunteers for the day. Their project focus was to create as many Christmas cards as possible for the day and then deliver them to youth with intellectual/ physical disabilities and or seniors that live in the Erie area with a small gift. Over 300 cards were created on this day.

The **Annual Neighborhood Christmas Party** was held on December 9th, sponsored by (LCBA) Loyal Christian Benefits Association Branch 49.



LMC PROPERTY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

The year 2017 was an insight into some of the future challenges which Property will face in the coming years. Once again there were some surprise costs related to our aging building and mechanical systems.

The LMC Services budget category was principally comprised of \$1,178.77 for security systems, \$3,833.08 for elevator services and \$5,401.50 for landscape maintenance, grounds keeping and snow plowing and \$5,437.00 for cleaning services. Additionally, \$1,817.50 was spent on obtaining a property survey to better define our property boundaries. The Services budget ended the year pretty normal.

The LMC Repairs & Maintenance budget shows a net total of approximately \$8,489.58 for repairs and maintenance. This is somewhat misleading because there was an infusion of \$26,913.00 into the account from a capital fund account to defray the cost of the replacement of the East Community Entrance rubber roof which was leaking into the building this time last year. Thus the total for Repairs and Maintenance was actually \$35,402.51. An abbreviated breakdown is \$17,633.00 for roof replacement, \$8,288.00 for more HVAC damper replacements and plumbing repairs, \$2,751.04 for a spruce up of the Brides Room, \$1,775.00 for new East parking lot lighting, and \$817.00 for replacement of the West side stair tower exit door. The remainder was spent on regular annual maintenance and repairs.

As was mentioned in last years' Property Annual Report, we are having to seriously address our flat roofs in that they are leaking at an increasing rate. Last year's major leak and damage relating to the East community entrance roof confirmed our advanced concerns. Bids have been sought and a proposal will be going to Church Council in early Spring for replacement this Summer for all of the remaining flat rubber and built-up roofs. This area constitutes most of the roofs that cover our large facility. It does not however address our slate roofs which are currently in serviceable condition. The building codes require commercial establishments to meet insulation requirements when replacing commercial roofs. Seeing that many areas of our flat roofs have very little and in some cases, no insulation - this requirement will definitely improve comfort and energy efficiency as the result of replacement. The savings will help as a long term payback for the investment. It might be expected that this project total will fall in the \$225,000 to \$250,000 range - one of the larger financial undertakings in the last few years.

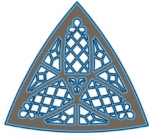
In the future we will be talking with experts concerning the stained glass windows of the church. There is evidence that deterioration is continuing. This will also require a very large financial multi-year commitment.

Staying current with maintenance is obviously a daunting task offering little respite every year! Maintenance must be kept current rather than face disastrous budgetary consequences in the future. Our future maintenance requirements will require a significantly higher financial commitment. All bequests and gifts to LMC Property needs are so gratefully appreciated!

We are thankful to have Miriam Scheid, Dave & Norma Buerk, Charlie Lintelman, Les Fobes and many others that assisted with the Property needs this past year.

Rick Kern
Chairman





LUTHER MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

During 2017, the Luther Memorial Concert Series (LMCS) committee members included: Pat Bellingham, Molly Gaber, Walt Gaber, Brian Hubbard, Greg Kern & Mark Lechner. All committee members continue to serve diligently to deliver each successful season: planning, finances & budget, program logistics, etc.

The continuation of the “**Second Sunday Family & Friends Preludes**” (SSF&FP) has been a success. On the second Sunday of every month, at the 10:30 service, an extended prelude is offered by a member or friend of Luther Memorial. This addition to our programming provides a venue for those family and friends to offer their talents as part of the LM worship experience. It is the desire of the LMCS that we recognize and support those that have been given music talents and have invested the time, finances and energy to develop those talents – especially when they can be realized to the glory of our Creator.

The 2017 schedule follows:

- Jan 8 Linda Melaragno (violin)
- Feb 12 ---
- Mar 12 Jenna Fiacco (flute)
- Apr 9 C. Noelle Partusch & Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble
- May 14 Michelle Sardini (vocalist)
- Oct 8 Linda Melaragno & Grandchildren (violins)
- Nov 12 Pipe Organ Dedication Preview (Bob Banks, Jonathan, Molly & Walt Gaber)
- Dec 10 Piano & Choral Music for Advent (LM Choral Ensemble, Walt Gaber)

We continue to “host” well-known area performing groups. The LMCS has provided the venue for performances by the Erie Chamber Orchestra (ECO) and the Young People’s Chorus of Erie. The intent of these “sponsored events” is to bring the Erie community to Luther Memorial to hear local music talent and to raise the visibility of Luther Memorial as an active host of the arts. This also enabled the LMCS to advertise our own programming to audiences that have a known interest in music. With the improved acoustics due to the ceramic tile across the front of the nave, several ECO audience members have commented that Luther Memorial is now one of the best venues for this community orchestra’s performances.

In November, we presented a dedicatory concert for the new small pipe organ. The purchase of this organ in 2017 was made possible by a generous donation from the John and Gertrude Petersen family. The concert highlighted the intended functions of this instrument:

- 1) Accompanying choral works
 - J. S. Bach – *Nun danket alle Gott*
- 2) Accompanying solo singers and instrumentalists
 - J. S. Bach – *Bist du bei mir* (Molly Gaber, soprano & Jonathan Gaber, cello)
 - Farlee – *Just as I Am, Balm in Gilead* (Bob Banks, saxophone)
 - Krebs – *Fantasia in C Major for Flute & Organ* (LeAnne Wistrom, flute)
- 3) Accompanying congregational singing, including the use of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) to control the larger Allen organ in the balcony from the new console at the front of the church.
 - *Evening and Morning* – setting by Carl Schalk
 - *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide* – setting by Henry Gerike

Concert Series, cont'd.:

- 4) Solo organ works
 - Carey – *Chanson Variations – David Ruler, organist*
 - Ayres – *Toccatina on 'Here Comes the Sun' – David Ruler, organist*
- 5) Works for organ and orchestra
 - Handel – *Concerto in B-Flat Major*
 - Corette – *Concerto in D Minor*
 - Kellner – *Concerto in D Major*
 - Allegri – *Concerto in D Minor*

Due to the organ dedication in November, we did not present a Bach Cantata Vespers (BCV) program. Plans are underway for one BCV this season to occur on Ascension, May 10, 2018. These feature a cantata by J. S. Bach performed on or near the liturgical date for which they were originally composed. During the calendar year 2017, the following was presented:

- April 2 – Lent 5 – #38 – *Out of the Depths, I Cry to You*
 - Prelude: Handel – *Organ Concert in G Minor, Op. 4, No. 3*
 - Voluntary: J. S. Bach – *Out of the Depths, I Cry to You, BWV 687*
 - Motet: Reutter – *De profundis (Psalm 130)*
 - Hymns:
 - *Out of the Depths* – orchestral interludes by Bernhard Lewkovitch
 - *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide* – setting by Henry Gerike

These 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 are able to celebrate and present our heritage while providing a welcoming and worshipful setting for some of the greatest sacred music created.

The 2017 Christmas Eve concerts featured music for flute and piano with local flutist LeAnne Wistrom and Walt Gaber. Ms. Wistrom also played for some of the anthems and instrumental music during each of the Christmas Eve services.

Most of our events have been enhanced by post-concert receptions hosted by the LM Congregational Life committee under the leadership of Les Fobes with the help of several others. These have encouraged fellowship beyond the performances and are greatly appreciated by the LMCS.

Finally, 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 - 2017

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 2017 include:

Pr. Bill Coleman	Cantor Walt Gaber	Joanne Dahlstrand
Cathie Dugan	Mike Daniels	Les Fobes
Jessica Copfer	Mary Daniels	Barb Holcomb

The committee met six times this past year, reviewing past practices and considering new ideas in order to enhance the worship experiences at Luther Memorial. The committee is also responsible for coordinating the decorating of our worship spaces and for ensuring that needed resources are in place for the conduct of liturgy.

A well-deserved “thank you” to Norma for all the work put into coordinating the many areas necessary to make our worship services run smoothly. In addition to producing our weekly bulletins, Norma coordinates the schedules for assisting ministers, communion assistants and altar guild, and makes sure there are flowers on the altar every Sunday. There are others who deserve thanks for their contributions to our worship life: Loretta Deeds coordinates the lectors, John Steff recruits ushers weekly, and Joanne Dahlstrand takes care of setting up candles for the columbarium and special worship services. We would be remiss to not mention Les Fobes in this list of thank-yous: we are grateful for his constant attention to the details of the aesthetics of the sanctuary, and his willingness to take care of them. Thank you, too, to Pastor and Walt for all the attention you give to making our services meaningful and timely, and thank you to Charlie! 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 them we owe a word of gratitude as well.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathie Dugan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathie Dugan

EVANGELISM / HOSPITALITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017



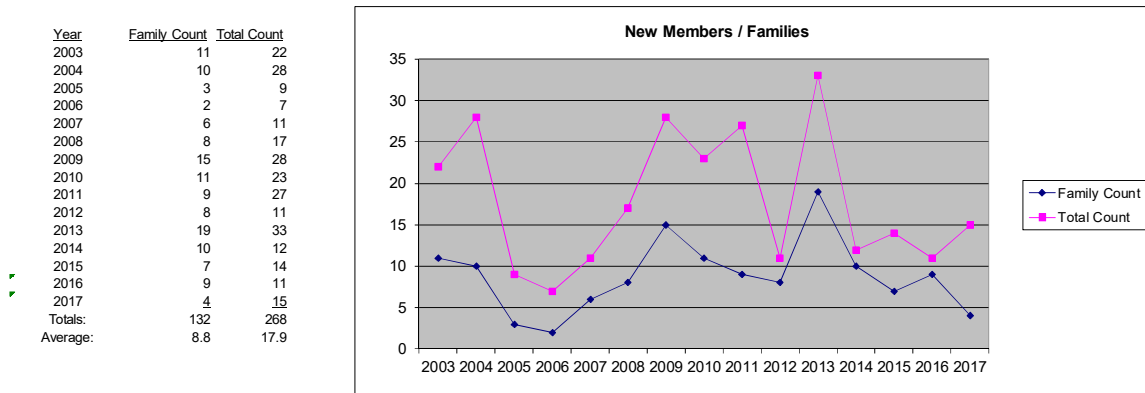
Evangelism / Hospitality Committee Members Who Served in 2017:

Pat Bellingham	Lynnette Donnelly	Eric Hedlund	Jeff Swanson
Vicky Blasco	Ann Flick	Brian Hubbard	Linda Swanson
Marilyn Bohn	Les Fobes	Jan MacInnes	John Swenson
Cheryl Brown	Lois Fobes	Natalie Montero	Lee Swenson
Montie Collier	Casey Hedlund	Rita Reichard	Peyton Thomas
Shirley Collier	Michael Hedlund	Thomas Schlecht	Pat Young
Mike Daniels			

1) New Luther Memorial families and members received in 2017:

Diane Schaney	Ray Schaney	Katie Romba	Christopher Romba
Emma Romba	Austin Romba	Ava Romba	Linda Burling
Tom Burling	Rebecca Burling	Lauren Burling	Ben Burling
Brooke McCall	Mattix McCall	Lincoln McCall	

2) New Members / Families Progress



Thanks to Everyone who invited their friends and family members to join us!

3) Baptisms in 2017:

Tanner Jackson Galloway	Amelia Kayla Rose Lang	Elliot Christopher Lang
Brody Christopher Warren	Maxwell Chance Albert	Cameron Jax Durian
Lincoln Merritt Thomas McCall	Arden Jules Fetcko	

4) Thank You!

- a) To Staff members and Congregation members who took the time to invite acquaintances from the school, their friends, and family members to join us.
- b) To every one of our committee members, who've all taken their turn at greeting guests at the Welcome Centers – before and after the early and late services.
- c) To the following for helping with the New Member Classes and Receptions:
Norma Buerk, Cindy Hedlund, Charlie Lintelman, Jan MacInnes, Lee Swenson, and Pat Young

Evangelism/Hospitality, cont'd.:

- d) To Pastor Coleman for organizing the Church Picture Directory update, and for all of the following for helping to take pictures and names:
Pat Bellingham, Ann Flick, Brian Hubbard, Linda Melaragno, Shannon McAdoo, Lee Swenson
- e) To Beth Keller and Norma Buerk who kept the Children's activity bags stocked in the Welcome Centers.
- f) To all our Hospitality members who attended the Vision Planning meeting on September 3rd

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hedlund



PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Pastor's Book Club was formed to read and share in conversation books of various theological topics. We take our time with the books and we typically meet every five weeks for our conversation time. The time together is casual and relaxed, but we always learn something more about God and one another. If you like to read, would like to deepen your faith, and would like to get to know others better, this would be a great group for you to join, and if you need more incentive, we even serve wine! Life is short and there are so many great books to read!

The books we read during 2017:

- A History of God By Karen Armstrong
- Cloister Walk By Kathleen Norris

Some of our upcoming books:

- Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?... and Other Questions from the Astronomer's In-Box at the Vatican Observatory By Guy Consolmagno and Paul Mueller
- When God is Silent By Luis M Martinez
- Four Scraps of Bread By Will Schwalbe

Submitted by,

William E Coleman

Pastor Bill Coleman



Benevolent Allocation Group (BAG)
Annual Report for 2017

Our giving back to God through our gifts to others is an act of worship, an instance in which we are invited to give up something that we value as a sacrifice to God. Matthew 6:21 says: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” We are invited to give our offerings to God because *we want and need to give it*. We have a spiritual need to worship God, and through our offerings we are able to express our love and devotion for God in a way that is simple and sincere. The motivation of the giver is what counts the most.

Our Giving is an Expression of Faith. The position of Scripture is that we *are* stewards, and it is not something we choose to be. God has chosen us to have dominion over all that God has made, to care for God’s creation, while at the same time we are “a little lower” than God and the angels. Beyond that God has entrusted Christians with the precious gift of the Gospel. We also recognize we receive far more through our giving than the recipients receive. It is far better to give than receive.

Our Giving is a Spiritual Discipline. “Generosity with gifts is the way to spiritual maturity. Sacred and secular history and literature are replete with examples of the crippling effects of gifts hoarded and unshared. People are not naturally disposed to giving, yet, the life we all prize, filled with joy and spiritual depth is closely tied to giving generously and with thankful hearts.” *By Donald W. Hinze*

What are the responsibilities of the group? BAG prays, researches and discusses ways to return our blessings to others. When the group makes a decision in where and how much to give, BAG then makes a recommendation to council and approves the gift(s). BAG is also responsible for communicating the blessings we receive through giving to others and in particular the disciples of Luther Memorial. BAG will create ways to more deeply connect Luther Memorial with those we serve.

Who serves in BAG and how is it structured? Stan Rose, Jack Tell, Diane Banks and Pastor Coleman serve on BAG. BAG determines how the recommendation to council will be made. The money tithed comes from money given to Luther Memorial Church which is unrestricted. This would **not** be money which would be assigned to annual budget income, but money given *which has not been budgeted*. Generally, the money assigned to BAG be would come from estate gifts. During the ministry year of 2017, Luther Memorial Church received unrestricted gifts from the estates of Ruth Weinheimer and Pastor Billie Loomis in the total amount of \$21,440. The tithe of \$2,144 was given to **Luther Memorial Academy “Hardship Tuition Assistance Fund”** to support families struggling with tuition at LMA, and to the **Lutheran Disaster Response** earmarked for Hurricane Response.

Submitted by,

Pastor Bill Coleman



LITURGICAL LIFE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

The Liturgical calendar is followed for the appropriate paraments and hymn boards in Faith Chapel and the main church. Additional preparations are needed for holidays; Pentecost, Easter, Christmas, etc.

Thank you to our volunteers for assisting at our weekly services, as well as their help with special services.

LECTORS ~ 10:30AM

Andrew Bebko	Pat Bellingham	Zoe Brown
Diane Banks	Amy Coleman	Mike Daniels
Loretta Deeds	Caleb DiCenzo	Alaina DiTullio
Lynnette Donnelly	Cathie Dugan	Jack Elliott
Ann Flick	Les Fobes	Linda Graffius
Jacob Gross	Eric Hedlund	Daniel Hackenberg
Beverly Held	Cindy Henry	Janet Kent
Bill Lasher	Mark Lechner	Don MacGregor
Linda Melaragno	Cathy Meyn	Natalie Montero
Dave Mumford	Mary Mumford	Krista Partusch
Noelle Partusch	Olivia Rieger	Emma Romba
Stan Rose	Marilyn Rositer	Christine Satur
Lois Smith	John Steff	Alexsandra Turkowski

ASSISTANT MINISTERS ~ 8:15 & 10:30AM

Diane Banks	Pat Bellingham	Rob Benacci
Emma Chaffee	Jan MacInnes	Noelle Partusch
Stan Rose	Lois Smith	Peyton Thomas
John Tell		

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS ~ 8:15 & 10:30AM

Communion Assistants are needed during each communion service. They also assist the altar guild following the 10:30 service, which makes things go much quicker.

Cheryl Brown	Amy Coleman	Joanne Dahlstrand
Mary Daniels	Coleen DiCenzo	Cathie Dugan
Ann Flick	Christine Gustafson	Barbara Holcomb
Elaine Kern	Martha Klomp	Jan MacInnes
Sally McAfee	Stan Rose	Bonnie Silvis
Jack Tell	Linda Young	

Liturgical Life Committee, cont'd.:

ACOLYTES

Our youth acolyte for the 10:30 service and, on occasion, special services. If your son or daughter would like to serve as an acolyte, please see Beth Keller or contact the church office.

Andrew Bebko	Gabriel Botelho	Addison Botelho
Allison Brown	Anthony Cimino	Emma Coleman
Marian Graffius	Ben Gustafson	Brady Gustafson
Chloe Meucci	Krista Partusch	Kara Partusch
Sutton Rowland	Alexsandra Turowski	Jaden Williams
Jeana Williams		

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild volunteers prepare for the celebration of communion and assist the Care Ministers. Communion is by cup the first Sunday of each month and designated festivals; by intinction on the remaining Sundays.

Diane Banks	Nancy Benacci	Marilyn Bohn
Sharon Burke	Helen Collins	Joanne Dahlstrand
Mary Daniels	Loretta Deeds	Barb Holcomb
Martha Klomp	Rita Reichard	Dorothy Youngman

Thank You to:

- ❖ All those who helped with set-up of Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias;
- ❖ Sally and Phil McAfee for taking such care of decorating the Christmas trees in Faith Chapel;
- ❖ David Buerk and Charlie Lintelman for their continued assistance throughout the year;
- ❖ All the women who participated in the Wednesday Lenten Luncheons;
- ❖ All those who prepared meals for our Super Wednesday gatherings;
- ❖ All those who assist with special luncheons, dinners, and funerals that take place throughout the year.

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 2017

Our Food Ministry Program, successfully implemented in March of 2012, continues to meet our goal of reaching out to our members in need. This year over 70 meals were prepared, averaging around seven (7) meals per month, from our participating volunteers. If you are interested in joining our cause, or know of someone within our church community who could benefit from this program, please contact the church office at (814-454-0106) or Elaine Kern by phone at (814-392-7189) or by email: elaine.kern@roadrunner.com. We are always looking for more participants!

A big thank-you to all who generously donated a meal for someone in need. Also, a special word of thanks to the Congregational Life Committee and Linda Graffius, who filled in with food as needed in the months of MAR/APRIL while I was in Florida.

In 2017 only (1) Funeral Luncheon was held in January in Fellowship Hall.

This is a valuable service we provide that many of our members are very grateful for. A special thank-you to all who helped by preparing a dish, with luncheon set-up, serving, and/or clean-up. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Additionally, I would encourage all Communion Care givers who visit members in their homes to contact either myself or Linda Graffius if they could benefit from our Food Ministry Program.

Elaine Kern
'FEED MY SHEEP' Food Ministry Coordinator



IN MEMORIAM
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 – NOVEMBER 1, 2017

CARL SUNDBERG
KATHLEEN BECKER
CECELIA BUNTROCK
THOMAS HENRY
RONALD JOHNSON
HELEN BELLINGHAM
MARTIN BROWN
KATHERINE MARTIN
KAREN COLEMAN
DONALD KLINE
LOUISE OSEARO
GARY SENIOR
DENISE STEINKER
VICKY PARTUSCH

EDITH BENSON
ELLEN VRENNA
PETER SCHAPER
ELOISE SCHAPER
MARILYN SWANSON
JEAN JONES
AMY SCHURING
ROBERT HALTTUNEN
LINDA WIEST
JAMES SWAN
SHIRLEY MCGILL
LINDA PACKARD
JON MILLER



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Our committee has kept busy and we try to remain visible within our church by hosting/sponsoring the following events throughout the year:

- Octoberfest
- Holiday Coffee Hour
- Cookie donations for Blue Service
- Annual 'Souper' Bowl Tasting
- Valentine Coffee Hour
- Spring Tureen in Fellowship Hall
- Annual Mother & Daughter Banquet
- Annual Beach Service & Picnic
- Reception for Pastor Appreciation

We had a kitchen cleaning party this past fall, and we feel that we were successful in purging items and finding different homes for our new pots and pans as well as the new roaster that is now available for all to use.

This year we were honored to make donations to the following organizations:

- Bethany
- Our free will donation from Octoberfest went to Bethany
- LYO Christmas Shopping Trip
- Military Fund

Our sincere thanks to all who attended and supported our events. We would love to have new members and encourage anyone interested in becoming a member of our committee to contact any of the below members, add it to your attendance sheet and place in the offering plate or contact our church secretary, Norma Buerk.

We look forward to planning and organizing new and fun events to promote more fellowship within our congregation. We have a few new ideas for 2018. We continue to look forward to helping our church and community.

Once again, I can't begin to express my sincerest gratitude for all of our committee members and the amount of time, dedication and energy they put into every event we have hosted over the last year. Without such a wonderful team, these events would not be possible or as successful!

A special thanks to Pastor Coleman for all of your support, to Norma Buerk and Miriam Scheid for always helping me with my repetitive questions, concerns and lost emails. To Charlie Lintelman, Rose Lintelman and Shannon McAdoo for always being willing to do "whatever it takes" to help make all of our events a success.

Committee Members:

SANDY BARBARO, LOIS & LES FOBES, JEANNE GABER, BEV HELD, JUDY JOHNSON, ELAINE KERN, KATHIE KRAUT, JAN MACINNES, CATHY & SKIP MEYN, CAROL SMITH, AND LOIS SMITH.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Silvis



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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

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 always welcome and encouraged to attend any of our monthly Circle meetings or the two General Meetings held each year in April and October. W/ELCA members continue to support and serve coffee hours, special receptions, funeral luncheons, and other functions as called upon to serve.

Fundraisers have included noontime Lenten luncheons at Luther Memorial, selling RADA Cutlery and other products, and other small projects. Profits help assist the work of the W/ELCA at Luther Memorial and on the Synod and National level. Thank you to all who participated in any of these events. Yearly gifts have been given to: City Mission, Bethesda (Meadville), Holy Trinity Community Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, Bethany Food Bank, and Luther Memorial Academy.

Besides the fundraisers and meetings, several members attended the Spring and Fall Conferences. We continued our “Pennies for Poverty” Collection, which goes to help women and children in poverty - and thanks to ALL for their donations. We also made and filled 20 Christmas stockings to give to Church Women United – who in turn took a large load of filled stockings to the men and women patients of Warren State Hospital. Many thanks to all the congregation for your support. Tea Bag Invites were given to women who joined Luther Memorial Church during the year.

Officers in 2017 were: President: Patricia Young; and Vice President: Mary Mumford; Re-elected Treasurer: Betty Pletz; and Sandra Brindle, Secretary. Committee members were: Mission/Action: Marilyn Bohn; Publicity: Barb Holcomb. Leaders for Tuesday Evening Circle – Barb Holcomb, and for Deborah Circle – Judy Johnson.

We are honored to be able to say that Pat Bellingham of our congregation was elected Northwestern PA Synod President of W/ELCA this past May at the Synod Convention in Ludlow, PA., and has been very busy in that position ever since.

Thank you to all our members, officers, and friends for their service and dedication to W/ELCA and Luther Memorial Church.

We invite any woman, regardless of age, to join one of our active Circles – come see what we’re about! Check out the “Parish Banner” for news and times of meetings.

God bless one and all,

Patricia Young

President, Luther Memorial, C. U.

PRAYER GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017



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.

Jesus taught us to pray by using the words of the Lord's Prayer. It's a beautiful and simple prayer which provides the Lord our words of adoration and praise. It turns over our lives to following the Lord's will and finding peace in that following. It asks for those things we need in life, to forgive us for the wrongs we have done that day, and to keep us from temptation. It is a prayer which honors the Lord and humbles the one praying it.

Luther Memorial's Prayer Group Ministry has done some great praying this year, and a special thanks to Linda Graffius and Jan MacInnes for taking on the leadership role of the group. The prayer group meets every five to six weeks. The Prayer Group keeps a public prayer list, which is listed in the bulletin each Sunday, and a private prayer list for those needs that are personal or in need of confidence. The prayer group also prays for one another. The disciples who are a part of the Prayer Group are: Jane Kinzig, Mary Mumford, Pat Young, Pastor Coleman, Linda Graffius, Mary Daniels, Jan MacInnes, Rita Reichard, Maureen Montero, Judith Steff, and M. J. Howell. The Prayer Group asks you to join us in our ministry of prayer by doing the following things:

- Make a prayer request by filling out a prayer request in the Sunday Bulletin Insert and put it in the offering plate, or offer your prayer request in the box at the designated prayer station which is in the hallway close to the Faith Chapel.
- Keep the Prayer Group updated with information about the people you have asked to be prayed for.
- During our Sunday worship service, and specifically when we offer the prayers of the people, pray for those people in your life, either out loud or silently in your hearts.
- If not already doing so, use the devotional "The Word in Season" for your morning or evening prayer. This is also a great resource for families to share before dinner. Keep a copy on your bed stand, on your kitchen table, or on your desk at work.
- Take a copy of the Sunday bulletin prayer list with you, and in your daily devotional time using "The Word in Season", pray for the names on our prayer list.
- Consider joining our Prayer Group by contacting Linda Graffius to discuss if this form of prayer ministry is something you wish to explore.

Submitted by,

William E. Coleman

William E. Coleman, Pastor



ALTAR FLOWERS
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

We appreciate the beauty of the altar flowers each Sunday and how they add to our services. We thank everyone for your donations. If you would like flowers at the altar or lectern, please contact our church secretary, Norma Buerk.

Altar flowers not taken by those who sponsor them are delivered to those in the hospital, homebound, to celebrate an upcoming birthday, or someone who may need a little pick-me-up. A visit and a smile go a long way for those who are unable to get out and 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.
- Pastor Coleman and Linda Graffius deliver flowers when making visits if possible.

Thank you to:

- Diana Alvaro for the preparation of containers for weekly deliveries.
- All those who delivered Easter lilies, Christmas poinsettias, cheer baskets and cookie bags to our homebound.
- Our Care Ministers for their visits, care and friendships formed with our homebound. They are able to share with us the needs of our homebound members, who would like to receive flowers, as well as the types of food that can be included in their cheer baskets. Because of this information, our homebound are better served.

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 2017



Thank you to the Sunshine Committee for all the cards they signed and addressed to our Homebound list, made up by the Church Office, which in 2017 was composed of the following volunteers: Norma Buerk, Coleen DiCenzo, Jane Kinzig, Sara Kuhrman, Lois Smith and Pat Young.

The main purpose of the Sunshine Committee of Luther Memorial Church is to try to give a little “*sunshine*” to our homebound folks with a few greeting cards; including birthday cards, holiday cards, and “thinking of you” cards, throughout the year. We also try to get cards sent to those who are hospitalized and sympathy cards to families 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. Approximately 260 cards were sent out in 2017 – and that’s a LOTTA postage! Donations of cards or monetary gifts may be dropped off at the church office or given to Pat Young at any time throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Young
Committee Chairperson

Erie Lutheran Parish
Annual Report for 2017



History of the Erie Lutheran Parish

From discussions between pastors in the city of Erie and congregational leaders plans began to discover ways to share congregational resources and partner with other Lutheran congregations in the city of Erie. Bishop Jones and Pastor Richard Schultz were active participants in the shaping of the vision and planning the emergence of Erie Lutheran Parish.

Foremost in the discussions and concepts were several goals. First of all is the affirmation of the ministries of each congregation. The ELP is to be seen as a means of support of these ministries. ELP has no desire to close or merge congregations.

Recognizing the challenges to congregations will call for different visions of leadership for congregations. This may include sharing pastors, utilization of certified lay worship leaders, T.E.E.M. personnel, and other skilled lay leaders.

During 2007, congregations were introduced to the vision and invited to be a part of the Erie Lutheran Parish. Articles of Agreement were completed and shared with congregations. On January 11, 2008, members of the congregations gathered in worship and signed the Articles of Agreement. The ministry has grown to include several task forces and several on-going ministries.

Ministry of the Erie Lutheran Parish

- Joint Worship Services on All Saints, Ascension and Epiphany
- Bi-Monthly Council Meetings
- Shared Confirmation and First Holy Communion Programs
- Participating in the ELCA National Youth Gathering
- World Hunger Support
- Shared Vacation Bible School
- Health Care Ministry
- Bi-Monthly Rostered Leaders Meetings
- ELP News and Ministry Opportunities through Newsletter
- God's Work. Our Hand's Projects
- Youth to Camp Lutherlyn for Confirmation Camp and Winter Retreat

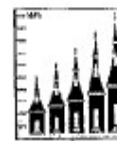
Erie Lutheran Parish Representatives from Luther Memorial Church

- Mark Lechner and Pastor Bill Coleman

Congregations and Rostered Leaders in the Erie Lutheran Parish

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Lamb of God Lutheran Church | Pastor Kim Hirsch |
| • Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Pastoral Assistant Ron King |
| • St. Matthew's Lutheran Church | Pastoral Assistant Ron King |
| • St. John Lutheran Church | Pastor Erik Young |
| • Luther Memorial Church | Pastor Bill Coleman |
| • New Jerusalem Lutheran Church | Pastor Owen Rhodes |
| • St. Stephen's Lutheran Church | Pastor Owen Rhodes |
| • Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church | Pastor Kristen Papson |

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT – 2017



The LMCF (Luther Memorial Church Foundation) Fund was established in 1997 for the purpose of maintenance, improvement, acquisition of property or any other specific uses as the donors may mandate.

Endowment Financial Summary

Fair market value, Dec. 31, 2016	\$672,827
Additions to principle during 2017	\$0
Distributions made in 2017	\$26,913
Market growth during 2017	\$91,533
Fair market value (FMV), Dec. 31, 2017	\$737,447
Approximate rate of return*, 2017	13.6%
Adjusted principle, Dec. 31, 2016	\$638,379
Inflation rate, 2017	2.2%
Adjusted principle* (AP), Dec. 31, 2017	\$665,191
Amount available for distribution (FMV – AP)	\$72,256
Distribution allowed for 2018 (4% of FMV)	\$29,498

* Approximate rate of return is net of any fees paid by the account. Adjusted principle is calculated by taking the previous year's value and increasing it by 2% plus the rate of inflation, then adding additions to principle.

In addition to the Endowment, the church was given a total of \$145,000 in 2017 for the potential purchase of the adjacent motel property. These funds are currently invested in a money market account. If they are not used for the property purchase they will be restricted for other uses as specified by the donors.

The Committee gratefully expresses its appreciation to those donors who have supported the Foundation, and we pray that all members of our Congregation consider supporting the Foundation through Estate Planning, Memorial Contributions, or Annual gifts.

Rob Benacci

Barbara Chaffee

William C. Lasher

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY
INCOME & EXPENSE FOR YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31
ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY			
INCOME & EXPENSE FOR YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31,			
	2017		2016
INCOME			
TUITION-PRIOR	5,947.00		4,304.00
TUITION-CURRENT	439,024.47		413,977.46
REGISTRATION	1,090.00		580.00
LATE FEE	0.00		0.00
ENDOWMENT TRANSFERS	9,689.85		16,021.10
MISC INCOME	425.75		690.40
INTEREST INCOME	110.13		155.04
UNDESIGNATED GIFTS	2,223.28		1,465.24
EITC INCOME	6,900.00		10,731.80
GENERAL CANDY FUNDRAISER	151.28		(112.43)
LMC SPECIAL OFFERING	1,805.72		2,823.00
THRIVENT MATCHING FUNDS	2,717.00		2,848.00
SPRING FUNDRAISER	407.37		5,137.51
RAFFLE	300.00		23,024.97
BEFORE SCHOOL INCOME	2,177.50		1,978.00
AFTER SCHOOL INCOME	6,811.50		7,437.00
TOTAL INCOME	479,780.85		491,061.09
EXPENSES			
TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES	386,733.36		370,784.88
SECRETARY SALARY	24,254.16		22,999.92
FICA TAXES	31,440.51		30,124.85
403(B) CONTRIBUTION	20,637.59		18,073.51
HEALTH INSURANCE	3,721.62		4,698.60
DISABILITY INSURANCE	0.00		5,633.83
CHRISTMAS BONUS	750.00		750.00
CHORAL DIRECTOR	322.95		311.42
HOME VISITS/MILEAGE	621.00		567.00
SUBSTITUTE WAGES	5,674.69		5,692.87
SUBSTITUTE FICA	434.14		435.32
ART & LAB SUPPLIES	684.22		494.81
OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,199.24		1,742.50
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	2,449.86		3,030.49
RELIGIOUS SUPPLIES	17.90		28.73
ELEA	560.00		265.00
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	15,770.00		15,876.00
BSP & ASP WAGES	8,781.87		9,334.76
BSP & ASP FICA's	671.84		725.45
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	471.01		545.80
COPIER MAINTENACE AGREEMENT	3,175.00		4,428.90
OTHER MISC. EXPENSE	1,474.98		707.35
CREDIT CARDS FEES	525.73		262.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	511,371.67		497,514.64
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	(31,590.82)		(6,453.55)

**LUTHER MEMORIAL
ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT – 2017**



The Erie Community Foundation
Helping today . . . Shaping tomorrow

Luther Memorial Church Fund		<i>Ms. Miriam Scheid</i>
		<i>Luther Memorial Church & Learning Center</i>
<i>Fund Statement period covered:</i>	Luth	<i>225 West 10th Street</i>
<i>Jan. 1 - Nov. 30, 2017</i>		<i>Erie, PA 16501</i>

Fund Activity

	Month To Date	Year to Date
Beginning Fund Balance	2,668,905.00	2,468,694.83
Contributions	0.00	0.00
Refund of Prior Year Grants	0.00	0.00
Investment Activity		
Interest & Dividends	1,166.31	23,733.09
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	27,963.70	292,846.88
Realized Gains (Losses)	3,653.16	46,375.93
Disbursements		
Grants/Scholarships	0.00	105,000.00
Investment/Management Fees	1,497.44	26,460.00
Credit Card Expenses	0.00	0.00
Other Fund Expenses	0.00	0.00
Ending Fund Balances	2,700,190.73	2,700,190.73

Gift & Grant details are on subsequent page



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

At last year's annual meeting we adopted a budget with a **\$36,934 deficit**. We ended the year with a surplus of **\$7,384**. That's **\$44,318** better than expected. Here's what happened.

2017 RESULTS

INCOME

Total Income came in over budget by \$33,709. Our total giving came in **over budget** by \$23,823; \$6,986 from pledged and \$16,837 from no pledge. Our investment income came in **over budget** by \$6,217. The \$14,470 amount was what UBS expected us to receive during 2017. Weddings, Miscellaneous and Security income were over budget \$3,376.

EXPENSES

Our total expenses came in under budget by \$10,609.

UTILITIES & TELEPHONE

We were **over budget** in total utilities and telephone by **\$1,413**

REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & SERVICES FOR LM BUILDING

These line items were **under budget** by \$6,547. The roof repair was paid for out of the Foundation money. There were other repairs that totaled \$10,223 that were also paid out of the Foundation money. Special thanks go to Rick Kern, Dave Buerk, Charlie Lintelman and Miriam Scheid for taking care of our facility for us.

SALARIES & STAFF SUPPORT

These line items were **under budget** by \$4,376.

THE 2018 BUDGET PROJECTS A DEFICIT

We are expecting a deficit of \$41,030 in 2018.

We expect our 2018 total giving to be \$303,595.

We increased the amount from Erie Community Foundation by \$2,300; 2.2% CPI.

We estimate our total expenses to be \$480,425. The estimated expenses are \$7,812 more than the 2017 budget and are \$18,421 more than the 2017 actual expenses.

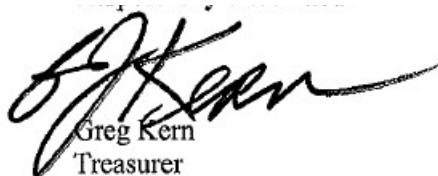
The 2017 budget has a 2.5% increase for Pastor and staff and keeps their benefits at the same level as before. We have budgeted all expenses as close to 2017 actual expenses as possible with adjustments made as necessary.

The expenses are **not** the problem. The problem is the giving.

Our priorities are still new members. The evangelism and stewardship committees did a great job last year in getting additional commitments.

We have very good control of our expenses; it is the top two lines of the budget that drives this organization.

Respectfully Submitted



Greg Kern
Treasurer

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY - 2017

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH								
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY								
	FMV					FMV	FMV	MEMO
	DEC 2016	EARNINGS	ADDITIONS	W/D & FEES	SUB-TOTAL	DEC 2017	INC/(DEC)	REALIZED
								GAIN/(LOSS)
UBS								
OPERATIONS RESERVE ACCT	488,177.22	17,533.33	3,145.02	29,964.03	478,891.54	516,966.50	38,074.96	0.00
UBS								
MUSIC PERFORMANCE FUND	24,442.38	1,110.03	0.00	258.35	25,294.06	28,098.97	2,804.91	0.00
STUDENT LOAN FUND	12,106.81	993.54	0.00	150.00	12,950.35	14,793.26	1,842.91	0.00
ZERBE CHRISTIAN ED FUND	23,791.49	1,200.13	0.00	550.00	24,441.62	26,673.39	2,231.77	0.00
FOUNDATION FUND	672,827.34	29,028.42	100,000.00	32,985.96	768,869.80	837,477.15	68,607.35	0.00
YENTES ESTATE	122,556.99	7,219.29	15,000.00	3,145.02	141,631.26	144,142.69	2,511.43	0.00
NWSB MEMORIAL FUNDS	349,465.22	149.61	43,387.93	79,305.78	313,696.98	313,696.98	0.00	0.00
ERIE COMM FOUND	2,468,694.83	70,109.02	0.00	131,460.00	2,407,343.85	2,700,190.73	292,846.88	46,375.93
CHURCH TOTAL	4,162,062.28	127,343.37	161,532.95	277,819.14	4,173,119.46	4,582,039.67	408,920.21	46,375.93
SCHOOL								
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	335,755.67	17,363.00	0.00	19,625.37	333,493.30	370,944.15	37,450.85	2,896.57
EARNINGS INCLUDES CURRENT YEAR'S INTEREST, DIVIDENDS AND REALIZED CAPITAL GAINS.								

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 2016 AND 2017
PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH					
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 2016 AND 2017					
AND PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET					
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	BUDGET
	2016	2017	2017	2017	2018
INCOME					
ENVELOPES PLEDGED	163,992	119,864	126,850	6,986	119,445
ENVELOPES NO PLEDGE	152,505	174,305	190,441	16,136	175,000
ENVELOPES SPECIAL	6,006	6,000	5,709	-291	5,500
PLATE SUNDAY	3,673	3,000	3,934	934	3,600
PLATE SPECIAL	73	0	58	58	50
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL GIVING	326,249	303,169	326,992	23,823	303,595
INVESTMENT INCOME	17,991	14,470	20,687	6,217	14,000
ERIE COMM FOUNDATION	100,000	105,000	105,000	0	107,300
WEDDINGS, AA & MISC INC.	2,687	2,700	4,326	1,626	3,000
SECURITY INCOME	1,948	2,000	3,750	1,750	3,000
ESTHER SODER MONEY	4,972	5,000	4,933	-67	4,900
JAGEMAN MONEY	3,604	3,200	3,620	420	3,500
SPONSERSHIP INCOME	140	140	80	-60	100
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	131,342	132,510	142,396	9,886	135,800
TOTAL INCOME	457,591	435,679	469,388	33,709	439,395
EXPENSES					
ACCOUNT FEES	4,801	5,500	4,964	-536	5,500
CARE MINISTRIES	1,282	1,500	1,500	0	2,500
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	5,521	6,500	6,414	-86	6,500
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	5,551	6,000	5,276	-724	6,000
ERIE LUTHERAN PARISH	2,090	2,090	1,903	-187	2,100
EVANGELISM & OUTREACH	3,335	3,400	2,844	-556	3,400
INSURANCE PROGRAM	18,137	19,020	19,450	430	20,300
OFFICE EXPENSE	13,411	13,000	14,711	1,711	13,000
OTHER BENEVOLENCE	5,850	5,850	5,850	0	5,850
PROPERTY R&M	17,090	15,000	8,859	-6,141	15,000
PROPERTY SERVICES	23,277	21,500	21,095	-405	21,500
SALARIES	201,825	205,401	203,429	-1,972	209,185
STAFF SUPPORT	74,141	76,402	73,998	-2,404	78,040
STEWARDSHIP	150	1,000	0	-1,000	1,000
SUPPLIES	5,490	6,500	5,399	-1,101	6,000
SYNOD APPORTIONMENT	36,000	36,000	36,000	0	36,000
UTILITIES & TELEPHONE	42,150	41,950	43,363	1,413	42,550
WORSHIP & MUSIC	4,176	6,000	6,949	949	6,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	464,277	472,613	462,004	-10,609	480,425
NET (LOSS) / SURPLUS	(6,686)	(36,934)	7,384	44,318	(41,030)