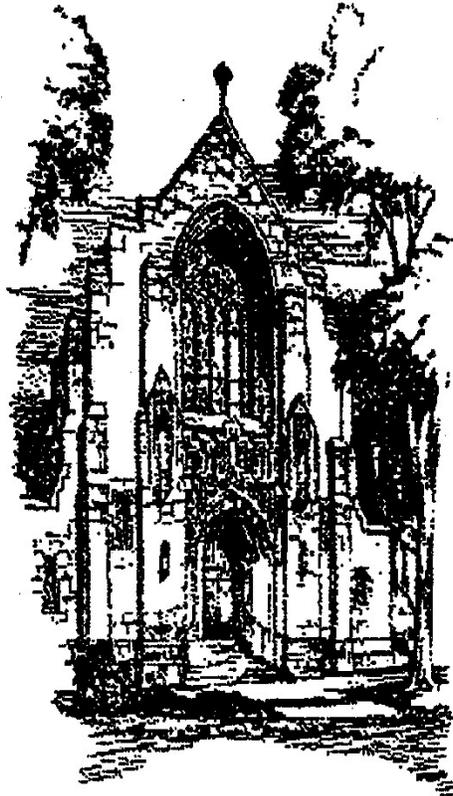


*ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING*



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

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

JANUARY 31, 2021

AGENDA
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2021

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

B. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Nominating Committee Report | Pastor Coleman |
|--------------------------------|----------------|

C. WORDS OF GRATITUDE, OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Les Fobes

D. REPORTS OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

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

E. FINANCIAL REPORT

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. 2020 Financial Review and 2021 Budget | Mr. Greg Kern |
|--|---------------|

F. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr. Les Fobes

Be it resolved:

1. That we express our thanks to Almighty God for the blessings we have received during the past year, and that we pledge ourselves anew to dedicated Christian living, worship, and service in this new year of grace, 2021.
2. We express our thanks to all members of the congregation who served so faithfully in our church during 2020, especially those members of Congregational Council completing terms of service; Brian Hubbard, Lori Perry an Carter Solt.
3. That we also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our 2020 staff: Imarii Anderson, Julie Baldwin, David Buerk, Norma Buerk, Cheryl Caram, Becky Carey, Pastor Bill Coleman, Jody Donovan, Kim Evans, Amanda Fried, Walt Gaber, Amy Gilewicz, Linda Graffius, Tammy Hayes, Elizabeth Hokaj, M. J. Howell, Beth Keller, Ron King, Charlie Lintelman, Jan MacInnes, Sally McAfee, Christine Musi, Christopher Paul, Sarah Prylinski, Katie Romba, Miriam Scheid, Kathryn Schultz, Donna Sedelmyer, Dawn Weborg, Caryn Wells.
4. That the Council be authorized to act on the report of the auditor when completed.
5. That the minutes of this meeting be considered for adoption by the Church Council not later than the second regular meeting following this annual meeting.

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

LES FOBES PRESIDENT	JOHN TELL VICE-PRESIDENT
MARK LECHNER SECRETARY	GREG KERN TREASURER
PATRICIA YOUNG ASSISTANT TREASURER	
JOHN BARTLETT	VICKY BLASCO
REV. WILLIAM E. COLEMAN	ANN FLICK
DAVE GRISWOLD	MARK HOWELL
BRIAN HUBBARD	KENNETH KRAUT
DOROTHY OVERBERG	LORI PERRY
MIKE SNIDER	CARTER SOLT

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019



The Nominating Committee was asked to seek church members willing to stand for election to Church Council at the annual meeting on January 31, 2021. The committee members were Greg Kern, Jack Tell and Pastor Coleman.

Brian Hubbard has finished his second term while Lori Perry and Carter Solt have each completed their first year terms. We thank each of them for their service to council.

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

EMMA CHAFFEE

JOE HELM

STAN ROSE

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Kern
Nominating Chair



***REPORT OF THE
CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020***

The year 2020 started out pretty smoothly. I sat at a Worship and Music Committee meeting where we evaluated 2019 Advent activities and our Christmas services and planned for Ash Wednesday luncheons and Easter. Everything came to a halt with Covid-19 and the shutdown that followed. I felt like we had lost control!

Thanks to Walt Gaber, Pastor, and Norma, Luther Memorial Church began offering worship at 10:30 am on Sunday on Facebook Live and then a recorded service at 12:00 noon on the church's website. As this team became more proficient with their broadcasting and recording skills, the choirs were added to the worship service. Today when we view Luther's Sunday services they are like being in church, but you are sitting in your easy chair and all your church family is at home in theirs. I look forward to the day we can all worship together in our beautiful sanctuary. Thanks also to Pastor who has been providing Wednesday morning Bible study, Tuesday morning prayer and Thursday evening prayer on Facebook and recorded versions on the church website and YouTube channel. These opportunities for worship and prayer have helped many of us cope better with this pandemic. People from Florida, Canada, South Carolina and Ohio are a few of those who are hearing the Lord's message from Luther Memorial Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. Thank you to all who have helped make this ministry work so well.

Your Church Council has met by Zoom, sometimes more than once a month, to re-evaluate Covid-19 restrictions and how they were affecting our worship activities and our mission to our members and community.

Thanks to Linda Graffius, Norma Buerk, Phil and Sally McAfee, David and Jane Kinzig, Kathy Kraut, Tom and Martha Klomp and Les Fobes who prepared meals for homebound weekly during the early stages of the virus and then monthly since October. Responses from those receiving meals have shown deep appreciation. This outreach mission has been possible because of generous donations. This program did not depend on financial help from church funds.

Luther Memorial's staff has been very inventive in providing Zoom meetings so that our children and adults could continue to participate in many programs during the shutdown. Many thanks to all of our staff who made communication with all of our members possible.

The pandemic has limited many committees who were active under normal circumstances to curtail their meetings. I look forward to the day when we can all get together again and resume face-to-face activities.

Throughout this 10 month period of turmoil, in the way we have been living, we can thank our Heavenly Father for protecting each of us. Undoubtedly we have either had the virus or know friends and loved ones who have been impacted by this virus, but through prayer and our strong Christian faith, we have made it day by day.

Let us look forward to the time when we can worship and be together in person to praise God in our beautiful sanctuary.

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

Les Fobes
Church Council President



*REPORT OF THE PASTOR
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020*

So did anything unusual happen this past year? Oh, let me think... well yes indeed. We may not always agree with one another in “normal” times, but I think we can all agree that 2020 was something else. I am hopeful that we will not need to endure another worldwide pandemic again in our lifetimes. Sure, life in the future will be filled with trials and tribulations, but this trial and tribulation was different, because not only did it stop our normal lives, made millions sick and killed hundreds of thousands, but it also kept us apart (physically) from one another. All the ways in which we “did” life, changed or suddenly stopped. I am sure that you are tired, just as I am. But in my weariness, I have never felt more certain about the Gospel promises, in that, we clung to them this year. We held onto “that although I walk through the valley and shadow of death, I will fear no evil.” The Lord was very much with us. It seems to me we were more attentive in our prayer and worship life. We connected with others more deeply and frequently. We pulled together to support one another in different and unique ways. We learned what we have always been told, that the church is not a building, but the church is Jesus and his people. So this past year we could not be the church in the ways we always have been, but we were the church we needed to be, as we were strengthened through the Word of God. And although we are limping from the year of 2020, I believe our faith and community in Christ are stronger, and for that, I give thanks to God.

I remember clearly when the Covid-19 virus began in March 2020 that I made a promise to myself that I wanted to get to the end of the pandemic and have no regrets about how this congregation navigated this pandemic together. I wanted to be able to look at myself in the mirror and know deep in my heart that we tried to do everything faithfully and safely, and as I write this article, I believe that to be the case. It’s an expected part of writing an Annual Report to offer words of thanksgiving to specific people, but this year, I just can’t do that, not because I am not thankful, but because I don’t even know where to start in my thanksgiving, because EVERYONE in this congregation needs to be thanked! Each one of you, from church members to church staff, gave so much of yourselves, because you follow Jesus so faithfully. It’s not only that you love this congregation and its people, but you have given so much of yourself to this community in these very trying times. You and I have learned so much about one another and about what is most important in life, which is why, although I am weary, my strengthened soul lifts to God in praise.

This report could go on and on, reflecting on 2020 and our community of faith, but I feel as if I have shared a good part of myself with you over this past year, and in particular, the way that I feel about you and this congregation. You are an amazing group of people, and I am blessed to be your pastor. Never in my life did I think that I would be doing as much stuff online as was done, but it was important to do so. In those worship services, reflections and studies, I always tried to be honest with you, and yet hopeful, because a community of faith is where we share our thoughts, struggles and burdens so the light of the Gospel can shine upon them. As you will see in this Annual report, our financial leaders, Greg Kern, Miriam Scheid and Stewardship leader, Stan Rose, share with us that it was an incredible financial year! You gave, and gave and gave, in consistent, sacrificial and faithful ways! Your giving far exceeded what was expected, and my words of thanks will never be enough, but once again I say thank you!

I have shared with you many times what a loving and giving spirit means to people who are a part of a congregation or looking to be a part of a congregation. People who are looking for a faith community are usually able to look past not the greatest sermons, or hymns they may not prefer, or Christmas trees that are slightly lopsided, but people aren’t drawn to negativity and to people who just don’t care. Think about all the stuff that we deal with on a weekly basis, all the ways that people try to divide us from others, or tell us we aren’t good enough or loved enough, and then think about what it means to find a place that tells and shows people the opposite. **So what I love about Luther Memorial Church (and you proved this true this year for sure) is the shared knowledge that we are all in this together, and that we provide one another the space and encouragement to serve one another in this place and beyond these walls.**

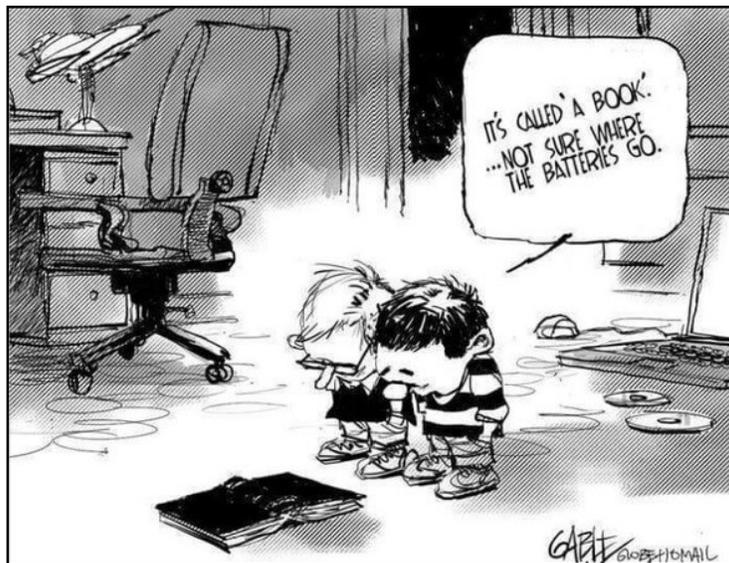
Pastor's report, cont'd.:

Luther Memorial Church has been blessed by the Lord with a tremendous bounty, and through that bounty and the people who gather here as a community of faith, our future is very hopeful. I thank you for all you do, for your kind and generous spirits, your hard work, and your faithfulness. Continue to engage your gifts here and invite others into this place and welcome them when they come, so that they may hear along with us that we are forgiven and loved.

Peace to you

William E. Coleman

William E. Coleman, Pastor





***REPORT OF THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020***

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

Obviously, with the advent of the COVID pandemic, traditional ministry became a development (adventure?), until a new, regular pattern of worship and interaction was achieved for the congregation.

We arranged for a toll-free telephone service and began weekly, Sunday morning prayer services at 11:30 am each week (Phone: 848-777-1212 Conference ID#: 6436436431#). So every Sunday morning, beginning March 22, we gather by telephone conference call for a prayer service that includes a psalm, scripture readings (a lesson and the appointed gospel) with a homily presented for each lesson, by Pr. Harbaugh and me, alternating between the lesson and the gospel each week. Congregation members have provided special music, both regular and special Sudanese hymns.

We began a small Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons in June using the toll-free telephone system, and then in September we began a weekly Wednesday Bible Study at 1:30 pm (led by Pr. Harbaugh) and a 7:00 pm (led by Pr. Harbaugh and me) using the Immerse Bible – Messiah. This is being accomplished by the gracious sharing of McLane Church, which provided all the Bibles for use in the study.

During this time of pandemic, Pr. Harbaugh has been regularly contacting members by phone and text during the week, to ascertain any special pastoral care needs or personal needs that may arise for the congregation.

From January 1 through March 14, Holy Trinity continued to host the Tuesday evening Pasta/Soup Kitchen (serving 70-80 each week), and the Wednesday (serving 20-30 each week) and Saturday (serving 30-40 each week) noon luncheons. During that same time frame the Food Pantry was open Tuesday evenings and provided an average of 35 bags of groceries each week along with the Clothes Closet (free, gently used clothing and household goods), and at the Saturday luncheon.

There were also “Sloppy Joe” dinners on the last Thursday of the month in January and February, hosted by Holy Trinity and St. Peter’s.

Beginning March 25, Holy Trinity began a prepared food bag distribution to our friends and neighbors in Little Italy. Through the Second Harvest Food Bank – Feeding America program, we are able to pick-up prepared surplus food from multiple Country Fair stores, Giant Eagle-Yorktown, Sheetz-Girard, and food from Panera/Country Fair from Luther Memorial. We assemble bags to distribute on Wednesdays and Saturdays at noon. Through our generous donors, we are able to supplement the bags with fresh fruit and milk/juice. We have been distributing approximately 35+ bags on Wednesdays and 40+ bags on Saturdays.

On Saturday, July 18, the folks from LCBA Branch #49 attended our distribution, and provided socks for each person coming to the ministry, a cash donation to use to supplement the bags, and 50 coupons for 12” sub sandwiches from Valerio’s that were distributed at a later date.

Report of the Pastoral Assistant, cont'd.:

Then on Saturday December 5, these generous folks returned and most graciously brought Christmas gifts for the children (age 3-12) of the families being served by the ministry, along with an exceedingly generous cash donation to be used to supplement the food distribution bags.

We continued our efforts of developing and working through a mutual ministry program with McLane Church. Pr. Gary Harbaugh continues to coordinate with McLane and through these efforts, McLane provided gifts for each of our children under the age of 18, for each of our 33 young people. McLane continues to publicize our ministries at their campuses.

Pr. Harbaugh has been working to strengthen our outreach in the areas of mission, and he has been working diligently with our sisters and brothers in the Sudanese community. Our Sudanese members offer their gifts to the ministry in many ways, but most especially in the form of singing, as they provide us with music from their heritage two to three times per month.

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

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

Ron King



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY
ANNUAL REPORT – 2020

The following groups, programs and special events are under the umbrella of Christian Education at Luther Memorial Church. Some of our programs were put on hiatus in 2020 due to Covid, but many of them continued. Our programs will begin again as Covid restrictions allow. Programs started took place during 2020:

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

The Cradle Roll is overseen by Jeanne Gaber.

The Baby Blanket deliveries are overseen by Linda Graffius.

The following were new or occurred in 2020:

- Fundraising for the LYO will continue and planning has begun for the next National Youth Gathering which will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota 2022.
- There was no Winter Retreat at Lutherlyn for 2020.
- The LYO (grades 7-12) continues to grow as does our Children’s Church.
- The groupings of our ministries are as follows: LYO Lil (PreK-grade 4), LYO Jr. (grades 5-8), LYO Sr. (grades 9-12).
- One Thursday a month during the summer, we provided Art in the Park and met for 2 hours to gather as a whole and provided safe fellowship for our families.
- Our nursery continues to be overseen by Anna Keller; although the nursery remains closed due to covid.
- Thank you to our church families for putting together a virtual Christmas Pageant.
- Our nursery has been given a fresh coat of paint and some new baby items will be added for our little ones. Part of the cost of the new items was through a Thrivent Action Team Project.
- Fundraising for the youth tried a virtual auction format during the fall of 2020 and had success and will continue this in 2021.
- Children’s Activity bags have been placed on hold due to covid but are expected to return safely in the fall of 2021.
-

Report of Christian Education, cont'd:

- Children's Church began meeting in person for September and October with one age group per week in fellowship hall. We then switched to Zoom for Children's Church every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:00 and continue to use this format for now. Spark curriculum is being used.
- Zoom is also used for keeping contact with our Confirmation and Holy Communion youth.
- The Care Squad this school year (19-20) has not been able to complete any projects at this time. We are hopeful to work with Jan MacInnes this spring for residents at the V.A. Hospital
- Volunteer opportunities have been difficult to coordinate due to the virus. We hope the youth will be able to have some outside opportunities this coming spring, summer and fall.
- Service Sundays with the LYO continue to look for opportunities to serve members of our congregation in 2021.
- The LYO were not able to host the annual yard sale and hope for this fall 2021 it will return.
- The 6th Annual Scavenger Hunt was unable to happen due to covid. We are hopeful it will return in the fall of 2021.
- The Vendor Fair was unable to take place in the fall of 2020. We had many interested vendors asking to return and are hopeful for this coming fall of 2021.
- LYO hosted BINGO took a year off due to the virus.
- Planned for October 2020 was a Trunk-or-Treat on a Sunday afternoon in our parking lot. Due to the virus there was no interest, but we are hopeful for its return in 2021.
- VBS had a new format in the summer of 2020. We met on Zoom each evening from 6:30-7:00 the week of July 6-10. We followed the curriculum from Group. We read the daily Bible story, learned new songs and dances; even had an evening snack together. There were seven (7) families that joined us. Phoebe and Stefan Smith from Ohio and Erin and Annie Frantz from Florida joined each evening (they were regulars every year at LMC until their move out of town).

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

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Keller
Sarah Prylinski



CANTOR'S REPORT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

“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. This has certainly been an unusual year due to the impact of the pandemic. All of us want to raise our voices in *praise and adoration* but have refrained from doing so ever since learning that the act of singing may be one of the surest ways to spread the airborne virus.

The core of our music ministry is found in the adult choir, which, in normal times, rehearses over two hours a week. All those who participated prior to the arrival of the pandemic are listed below. The * signifies those who subsequently have worked from their homes to learn the music and record their individual voices, thus enabling the composite hymn recordings we hear each week in our worship services. Please give them your thanks for their willingness to learn new technologies and techniques and their dedication to continue singing in isolation these many months.

* Bob Banks	Cathie Dugan	Mark Lechner	Kathy Sahlmann
* Pat Boyd	* Jonathan Gaber	* Otto ‘Skip’ Meyn	Solveig Santillano
* Carol Carlson	* Molly Gaber	Brian Moran	Amelia Smith
Doug Chaffee	* Ken Kraut	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Young
Emma Chaffee	* Mary Laver	* David Ruler	

The handbell choir has gathered when possible to prepare and perform selections for our worship services. The following rehearsed weekly except when the church building has been closed to group gatherings. We expect to resume when the church building is reopened. In the interim, several have participated in a *virtual* handbell choir by recording individual parts in isolation, similar to the way the choir has functioned.

Christy Adams	Emma Chaffee	Jeanne Gaber	Mary Laver
Bob Banks	Lena Donnelly	Jonathan Gaber	Barb Moore
Pat Bellingham	Cathie Dugan	Molly Gaber	Kara Partusch
Pat Boyd	Les Fobes	Lynnette Gustafson	Amelia Smith

Although the use of *virtual* choirs to provide recorded music for worship is not ideal, there is at least one positive benefit. We now have recordings of more than 100 hymns and several handbell pieces, some of which have been uploaded as MP3 files to the Luther Memorial web site. These digital stereo files should be playable on any device including your smartphones and tablets – although please use your best audio devices for the full experience.

Hymns:

Menu: Ministries | Music Ministry | Hymn Recordings
(www.LutherMemorialOnline.org/Music_HymnRecordings)

Organ & Handbells:

Menu: Ministries | Music Ministry | Organ Recordings
(www.LutherMemorialOnline.org/Music_OrganRecordings)

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

Cantor's Report, cont'd.:

I would like to thank the instrumentalists that have added color to our worship. During 2020, these included:

Bob Banks	Saxophone
Linda Melaragno	Violin
Otto 'Skip' Meyn	Clarinet

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

The two existing electronic organs continue to provide reliable service with a few minor maintenance issues. It should be noted that, as with any electronic device, their lifetime is finite, and we should prepare for their eventual decline or failure while maintaining them at their highest level. 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. The small pipe organ provides valuable options for music in our worship.

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.

Mark Lechner provides the weekly commentary in our bulletins for all 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.

Our Concert Series has been on hiatus since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to provide a Bach Cantata Vespers concert & service in March shortly before the statewide lockdown was enacted. We look forward to being able to resume some sort of schedule later in the 2021-2022 season.

I continue to serve as the Dean of the Erie chapter of the American Guild of Organists and am also a member of the NWPA ELCA Synod Worship & Music committee which plans and evaluates synod-wide worship services. I am also on the board of the recently formed *Presque Isle ProMusica*, the chamber orchestra in residence at Luther Memorial. All these organizations have had their activities severely curtailed due to the pandemic, but I anticipate all of them resuming later this year.

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



CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Our Care, Health and Prayer Ministries have certainly been changed by the effects of the pandemic but God continues to bless us in many ways.

In March when we realized that our church services and all activities had to be stopped, Pastor gathered the staff together to determine how we could stay connected to our members, especially our most vulnerable members. We assembled a list of names and Norma developed two spreadsheets for record keeping. We determined that we wanted to provide meals and also extend the card ministry to include phone calls. Starting in March and continuing through April, May and the first week in June, a faithful group of volunteers and staff safely prepared, packed and delivered meals once a week. Some received meals every week and others received them two times a month depending on their needs. In June it was decided to distribute the meals once a month. Along with the fresh meals, donations of baked goods from Panera and miscellaneous food items from Country Fair were included. Several members were asked to send cards and make phone calls to check on our members and let them know that we care and are thinking of them during this difficult time.

The usual monthly in-person Care Ministry visitations had to stop, but our Care Ministers have been calling and sending cards to their care recipients. Several of the Care Ministers are providing communion by delivering the communion cups and a service booklet to their recipients and then they call them and share the service over the phone. This is another example of the caring outreach of Luther Memorial.

We have again experienced quite a few deaths of church members including five (5) who were care recipients and one Care Minister. Sympathy cards, Stephen Ministry grief books and one year anniversary of their loved ones death, a special remembrance card is sent out. We also send out a “loss of pet” card when we hear that a member’s pet has died. After all, they are a member of the family of God. The 8th annual Blue Christmas service was held on December 9 via Facebook live. Pastor and participants met via zoom and determined that we wanted the service to reflect how the pandemic has affected everyone along with grieving over other losses. It was a beautiful service and was viewed by many on Facebook.

Our prayer group has been given the name, “Prayer Partners”. There are thirteen (13) members in the group who are faithfully praying for people on the public and private list. You may place a name on the private list if you don’t want the person listed in the bulletin. We started gathering via zoom and this has been a positive thing because more members, even from Florida, can participate in the meeting.

The Magic Fingers Grace Knitting Group met in January and February. Dorothy Overberg presented the group with a \$250 Thrivent Action Team gift card. The ladies met and planned to make a quilt for the Lutheran World Relief using these funds. Their gatherings stopped after one meeting in March, but then resumed for the months of August through November once they were allowed to meet in the church according to the guidelines. We had a limit of 6-8 ladies at each meeting. They met in the parlor and it was cleaned and sanitized before and after the gathering. They were so happy to be back for it is a great way for everyone to socialize after being quarantined in the house.

Many prayer shawls, knitted crosses and prayer stones were blessed by Pastor Coleman in October. We have distributed many prayer shawls and knitted crosses to church members and friends. Scarves and mittens were distributed to Bethany Outreach Center. Tiny hats and blankets for the premature babies were given to the Hamot NICU.

Care Ministry, cont'd.:

The OWL's group did not meet in January. Twenty-seven (27) members enjoyed gathering in February for the Seniors Valentine lunch at the Convention Center.

A Military Box collection was not held in 2020 due to the quarantine.

Hospital and home visits aren't allowed so Pastor and I are keeping connected to those with health needs via phone and email. If a member is in Hospice we have been able to visit and provide spiritual care. We continue to loan out durable medical equipment, i.e. walkers, shower chairs, etc., to members in need. Call the church and Linda or Norma will help you obtain what you need.

Because this is a "new or novel" virus, we all have needed education about it and about how to stay safe during the pandemic. The monthly newsletter articles have helped educate our members about the virus, the pandemic and about the mental health issues that are arising because of being quarantined and isolated.

Despite the fact that we have not been able to gather in person, the people of Luther Memorial Church have come forth to show that we are a loving and caring community. I am so thankful to be your Faith Community Nurse and I continue to pray for God's guidance for the future of this world.

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 2020*

Luther Memorial ReCharge is an exciting worship ministry, and it continues to grow and touch many people. We have moved from a new program to a well-established group after much prayer, planning and faith, and we have formed a wonderful community within our walls on Sunday evenings.

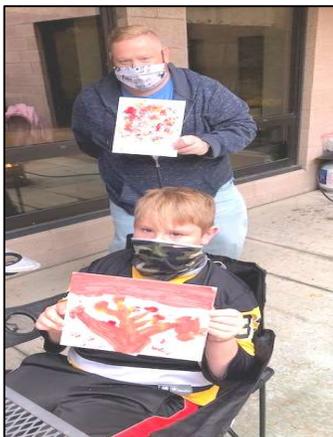
The plan is that ReCharge is to be held the first Sunday of each month and begins with a delicious meal, fellowship, and activities from 4:00-5:00pm. A contemporary worship service is held from 5:00-6:00pm. Our music is led by a very dedicated praise band, and videos selected by Pastor Coleman are often 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 of course has seen many changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the restrictions for social distancing and no singing, it has made our worship experience a challenge. We were able to do a limited outdoor fellowship hour during the summer and maintained distanced seating for safety. We knew that due to limited capacity, we were not reaching our normal audience. The worship team quickly worked to develop alternative methods of reaching our ReCharge family. Plans went into action to develop some recorded sessions and we were able to get our first post-production ReCharge service out on YouTube and the Luther Memorial Church website by Christmas.

Although the challenges of Covid-19 seemed to separate us, we have developed some tenacity and determination to make this a viable ministry opportunity. We look forward to the next year and pray that our services can be back in person with some safety considerations as the ELCA and council see fit.

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 adventure. Thank you to all those for their support and gifts they give to ReCharge. We are excited to get back to some normalcy and see where the next year takes us and welcome you to join us when appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Prylinski





REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

It is an honor to continue in my fourth year as the Luther Memorial Academy Administrator even during this most challenging of school years. We were pleased to have Imarii Anderson join us as our new Language Arts teacher in middle school. We also were privileged to have Caryn Wells, who has been with LMA for many years, take over Math and Science instruction duties in middle school.

Much of the summer was devoted to preparing for a school year during a pandemic. A Health and Safety Plan was developed to allow LMA to reopen safely with a remote option available to families who chose this format. This would not have been possible without the devotion of time and effort by teachers, school board members, and church staff.

The school has had to go fully remote a few times when Covid-19 numbers escalated or were anticipated to escalate due to holiday gatherings. Teachers, students, and families have been amazingly flexible and understanding as we have had to take these measures to ensure the health of our LMA family.

Many of the traditional activities of the school, including music programs, LMA Sunday, the Thanksgiving Feast, and sports programs, were cancelled during the year to reduce large gatherings of people. The school was able to purchase Chromebooks for all students to use through grants and school technology funds. This has enabled us to provide the tools students need for periods of remote learning and as a wonderful learning tool in the classroom. School enrollment is up from last year, which is a testament of LMA's ability to meet the needs of a diverse student population during a challenging time.

The LMC congregation has continued to be extremely supportive of me and our school. We are so fortunate to have such a devoted, compassionate group of people! The LMA School Board and school faculty have taken up the challenge to keep student enrollment up so LMA will continue to thrive in the years ahead.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

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

TEACHING FACULTY 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR

KATHRYN SCHULTZ – Kdg.	KIM EVANS – Grade 3
KATIE ROMBA – Grade 1	ELIZABETH HOKAJ – Grade 4
BETH KELLER – Grade 2	BECKY CAREY – Grade 5
IMARII ANDERSON – Grade 6 Homeroom, English, Reading	
AMY GILEWICZ – Grade 7 Homeroom, Social Studies, Study Skills, Art	
CARYN WELLS – Grade 8 Homeroom, Science, Math	
DAWN WEBORG – Music (on hiatus)	
CHERYL CARAM – School Aide	
SALLY MCAFEE – Library aide	
MAUREEN KURTIC – Speech	
TAMMY HAYES – Pupil Services, Reading	
JODY DONOVAN – Pupil Services, Math (Kdg. – Grade 6)	
CHRIS MUSI – Pupil Services, Math (Grades 7 & 8)	
MIRIAM SCHEID – Tech Support	
A. J. NOYES – Substitute Teaching, Art Instruction in elementary grades	

Report of the LMA Administrator cont'd.:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

JIM WERTZ – President
M. J. HOWELL
JOHN BARTLETT
SHANNON MCADOO - Secretary

NATALIE MONTERO
MIRIAM SCHEID – Treasurer
MICHAEL MCCORMICK
KATIE ROMBA – Teacher Rep.

PASTOR BILL COLEMAN
CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL, LMA Administrator

*Board Projects: Covid-19 mitigation planning; technology upgrades; vision planning;
recruitment/retention

VOLUNTARY HELEN SCHADE LIBRARY STAFF: PAT YOUNG

BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM: CARYN WELLS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: BETH KELLER – Coordinator
CARYN WELLS
ANNA WILLIAMS

VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS:

Print Cartridges	Cellphones	Boxtops for Education
Coca-Cola Gives	Amazon Smile	

MEMBERSHIPS:

Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5
First Lego League

PARENT/TEACHER LEAGUE:

KIM WERTZ – President
BREAUANA HIGGINS – Vice-President
AMANDA FRIED – Secretary
ANNA WILLIAMS – Treasurer
CARYN WELLS – Teacher Representative

PTL ACTIVITIES:

Graduation Reception, Capital Purchases for Classroom, Playground.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Science Fair, Geography Bee, Challenge 24, Read Across America, Aluminum Recycling Project,
School Spirit Days, Kindergarten and Grade 5 Buddies, Field Day, Lego League.

Report of the LMA Administrator cont'd.:

SCHOOL PROJECTS:

“Kids for Kids”
School Spirit Days to support Luther Lion at the Erie Zoo
School spirit Days to raise money for the Caring Place
Fundraising for the Regional Cancer Center and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Used Printer Cartridges Collection

GRADUATION AWARDS:

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

THRIVENT GIFTING PROGRAM:

Thrivent Financial helps LMA through the “Thrivent Choice” program. This program allows members to direct funds to LMA. It is not a matching program, but rather a direction donation to our school. We 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 and OSTC Programs are 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



Bethany Outreach Center

Helping to restore hope through life change

Our Mission: Bethany Outreach Center impacts Erie's lower eastside neighborhood by providing services and



2020 Annual Report

Life change happens here because of your ongoing support.

Food Pantry

There were **5,585 visits** to our pantry serving **529 family members**

Clothing Closet

There were **1,259 visits** made to our closet by **884 unduplicated family members**. We received over **10,977 pounds of clothing and household goods**.

Service Learning Project Partners who've shared their Time, Talents, Ties and Treasures: Feeding America, Price Rite Market Place, Second Harvest Food Bank, Country Fair, Erie Insurance, Lord Corporation, Cornerstone Construction, Pathstone, Mercyhurst University BTG Program, LCBA Branch 49, Erie City Mission, Rock Of Ages Compassionate Ministries, Millcreek Kiwanis, Crime Victims Center, Saint Vincent Mobile Van/Medcorp, Panera Bread, Life Works, WQLN, AmeriHealth Caritas, Early Connections, Hooked on Books, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, St. Bens Education Center, Crop Walk for Hunger, Hamot Health Foundation, Erie Day School, Barber National Institute, M.A.B.E.L. ~Mind And Body Education Link, Women of ELCA, BLANKS Tae Kwon Do, ServErie, Luther Memorial Academy, The Erie Community Foundation Youth Philanthropists~ HEY! Hear Erie's Youth, Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

The Annual Turkey Man Drive: 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, **30** volunteers came to unload the truck, distribute and deliver food including turkeys to **176 families** in efforts to help them to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner at home.

***More than 600 households** took advantage of programs at the center in **2020**. Over **179 unduplicated** volunteers gave **4,217 hours** of their time to make a difference in the lives of those in need. In addition, we had an average of **35 volunteers per month** who gave an average of **351 hours per month** to IMPACT the lives of the families we serve at **BOC 254**.

Corporate Matches: Erie Insurance, GE Community Foundation, Thrivent Choice Program, Erie Community Foundation

2020 Highlights

Bethany receives over **3250** pairs of socks in one day from Bombas

October 14 Largest day of giving in Bethany Outreach Center's History.

Over **\$200,000** worth of food and other products were distributed to **3200** individuals.

Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and his wife Gisselle, personally distribute food to families being served at Bethany.

2nd Lady, Giselle Fetterman & Exec. Director, Mabel Howard



Bethany receives a proclamation from Mayor Joe Schember, in honor of Feeding Minds & Body day.

Executive Director: Mabel Howard
Location: 254 East 10th Street, Erie, PA 1503
Website: www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org

Executive Assistant: Luanne Churchill
Office Phone: 814-456-6254
Email: mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org

LMC PROPERTY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

The year 2020 was an uneventful one for property. There were no major projects to address and with there being such little use of the building, just routine maintenance was needed. The total of \$35,570.57 was spent this year for property.

Many thanks go to Rick Kern for all his years of chairing and managing this committee. His contracting expertise and knowledge of reliable vendors to call on when Luther Memorial was facing a crisis has been extremely valuable. I hope someday soon we will be able to see his vision for new parking lots and raising the hotel become a reality.

The people who have volunteered to serve on the Property Committee once Covid becomes less dangerous are: Bob Banks, David Buerk, John Evans, Les Fobes, Jeanne Gaber, Tom Klomp, Miriam Scheid, Jeff Swanson, Carter Solt and Don Tatar. It is reassuring to know that Rick Kern will be available to advise us if needed.

I look forward to a time when this committee can safely convene and look at some of the long range property issues that Rick so often talked about.

Les Fobes





LUTHER MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

During 2020, the Luther Memorial Concert Series (LMCS) committee members included: Pat Bellingham, Molly Gaber, Walt Gaber, Brian Hubbard, Greg Kern and Mark Lechner. All committee members continue to serve diligently to deliver each season: planning, finances & budget, program logistics, etc.

Obviously, the pandemic has severely impacted our ability to present a full program this season. Fortunately, we were able to prepare and present one Bach Cantata Vespers service/concert days before the pandemic reached our community.

Due to the unknown and ever-changing timetable for the progression and eventual resolution of the pandemic, we have not announced specific plans for a 2020-2021 season. We continue to monitor the spread of the disease and the vaccination program, but hesitate to resume gathering, rehearsing and performing for an audience until the public at large is protected from the virus. Consequently, we did not solicit donations during the summer of 2020 as we would normally have done. Although we have sufficient funds to restart the program, your support is appreciated and will be necessary to resume this ministry.

Bach Cantata Vespers

We presented one Bach Cantata Vespers (BCV) program in 2020 featuring a cantata by J. S. Bach.

March 8 – Cantata #93 – *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*

(Who only lets dear God rule.)

- Prelude: Settings of *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* - orchestrated by Walt Gaber
 - Partita for Organ & Orchestra *Georg Böhm*
 - Fantasia for Organ *Johann Ludwig Krebs*
 - Fughette for Organ & Orchestra *Ernst Köhler*
- Voluntary: Liturgical Dance
 - Settings of *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* - orchestrated by Walt Gaber
- Motet: *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* Felix Mendelssohn
- Hymns:
 - *Oh, Blest the House* - settings by Classnitzer, J. S. Bach, J. C. Bach & Othmayr;
arr; Walt Gaber
 - *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* – setting by J. S. Bach; arr. Walt Gaber

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

The 2020 **Christmas Eve concerts** were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An extended organ prelude was provided for the streamed service.

Concert Series, cont'd.:

Our major events have traditionally been enhanced by **post-concert receptions** hosted by several members of our congregation under the leadership of Les Fobes. These have encouraged fellowship beyond the performances and are greatly appreciated by the LMCS.

Conclusion

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

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Gaber

“We believe art feeds the spirit.”





WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

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 2020 include:

Pr. Bill Coleman
Cathie Dugan
Les Fobes

Cantor Walt Gaber
Jessica Copfer
Mary Daniels

Betty Pletz
Joanne Dahlstrand
Mike Daniels

The Pandemic of 2020 presented many challenges to the worship life of Luther Memorial Church, but with hard work and collaboration on many fronts, we met that challenge head on. A hybrid of online and in-person worship has held our community together. While online worship does not replace corporate worship, it has brought home to us is that WE, THE PEOPLE, ARE THE CHURCH. Through our weekly services, morning and evening prayer, Bible study and zoom gatherings, we have stuck this out and remained connected. One of the positive things we have learned is that providing online options are a great way to connect with people who are out of town or homebound. Thank you to Pastor and Walt, Norma and Linda, as well as many, many volunteers, for the hours of thought and hard work you have put into making online worship possible.

I know that I am not alone when I say that I miss being in our sanctuary. I miss hearing the sound of voices reciting the Creed and singing hymns together. I miss seeing the light coming through the stained-glass windows, and feeling the reverberations in the air from the organ. Mostly, I miss the faces and smiles of my church family. But we are still here, and we are still together. I relish each Facebook live service, and look forward to being together again.

Respectfully submitted,


Cathie Dugan

EVANGELISM / HOSPITALITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



Evangelism / Hospitality Committee Members Who Were Prepared to Serve in 2020 (but then COVID-19 hit):

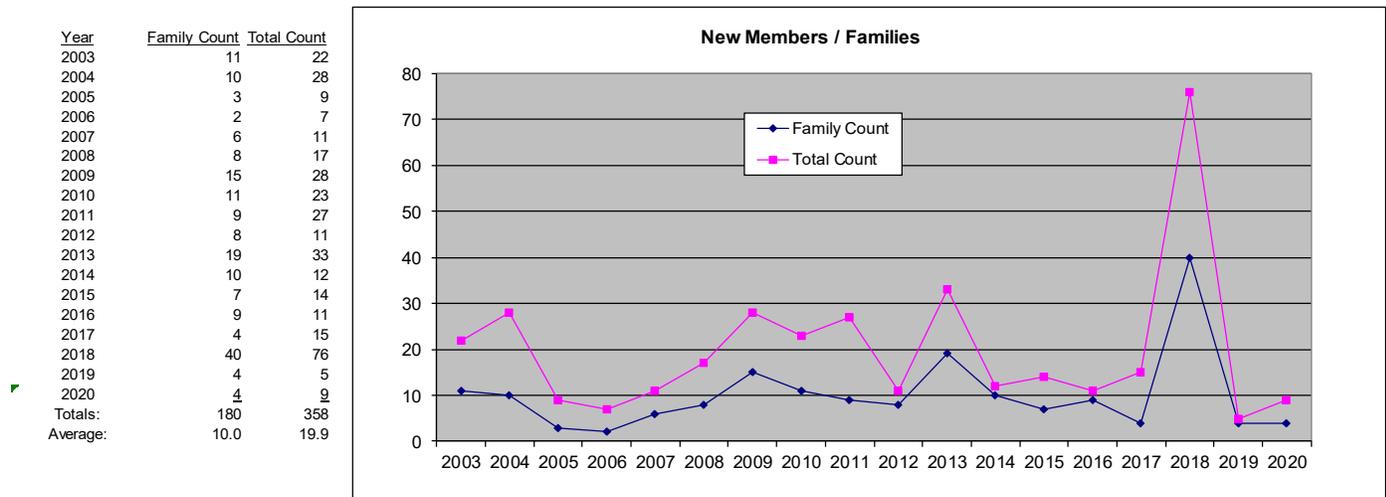
Pat Bellingham	Amy Coleman	Casey Hedlund	Linda Swanson
Vicky Blasco	Mike Daniels	Eric Hedlund	Lee Swenson
Marilyn Bohn	Ann Flick	Michael Hedlund	Pat Young
Cheryl Brown	Les Fobes	Brian Hubbard	
Montie Collier	Lois Fobes	Jan MacInnes	
Shirley Collier	Lynnette Gustafson	Jeff Swanson	

In Mid-March 2020, because of the situation with COVID-19, we stopped performing our normal weekly “Hospitality” duties. We expect to be able to pick back up with our "Hospitality" duties in 2021 after enough people are vaccinated and the COVID crisis is finished.

1) New Luther Memorial families and members received/transferred in 2020:

Cathy Beck	Karen Lundwall	Donna Sedelmyer	Josh Stelmack
Amanda Stelmack	Grant Stelmack	Samantha Stelmack	Madeline Stelmack
Austin Nickerson			

2) New Members / Families Progress



3) Baptisms in 2020:

Grace Helen Pratt	Morgan Mae Snider
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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 the greeters who volunteered during periods when we were having socially distanced church services.
- c) To Norma Buerk, Jan MacInnes and Ann Flick who welcomed new members with flowers and picture-taking.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hedlund



EMERGENCY AND PREPAREDNESS TEAM
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. Psalm 16:1

The members of this committee are: Linda Graffius–Faith Community Nurse and Facilitator, Norma Buerk–Church Secretary, Miriam Scheid–Church Business Manager, Charlie Lintleman–Church Security, Chris Paul–LMA Administrator, Les Fobes–Council President, Jesse Graffius, Barb Chaffee, Tom Klomp and John Steff.

The team met on March 10 and discussed briefly what the effects of Covid-19 could have on our church and Erie County. Little did we know! We also reviewed in detail the drawings of the evacuation plan. The architect was to be contacted to correct and update them with the committee’s recommendations. When the plans are completed they will be placed in designated areas determined by the group. Other safety measures completed included placing glow in the dark exit signs in areas so it is clear where to exit the building and a new fire panel system was installed. We also discussed the formation of a Safety Ministers program and their duties. Unfortunately we could not meet again in person to follow up on other plans and projects.

In June a subsidiary group, under the direction of Pastor Coleman, was formed and met to determine proper safety measures and policies for reopening the church. These were approved by church council and communicated to the congregation members.

When Luther Memorial Academy resumed in-school classes they had a special program brought to them. Representatives of the Erie Fire and Police Department made a friendly outside visit to the school students. At that time representatives of the Fire Department did a walk-through of the church building. They had no suggestions to offer. This completed our goal of having a fire inspection performed.

A special meeting was held on October 13, following all safety guidelines. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how to educate volunteers, who attend the tables at the three entrances and exits, on how to identify any questionable/suspicious visitor or other unusual behaviors. We determined that Charlie’s cell phone number would be made available to whoever is at the table. Safety Minister training was again discussed. Unfortunately again, we did not have a chance to follow through because it was determined the church would close again because of the rising numbers of Covid cases.

This is a brief synopsis of what our committee is doing for you. I want to ask that you consider helping your church. We need volunteers, preferably those without underlying medical conditions and under the age of 70, to become a Safety Minister. There will be training provided. We hope you will consider serving God and His church by volunteering to keep our church and members safe.

Take care, stay well and stay safe.

Blessings,

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



***PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020***

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!

Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic our Book Club was in hibernation, but we are looking toward a new beginning in 2021.

Submitted by,

William E. Coleman

Pastor Bill Coleman



***IN MEMORIAM
NOVEMBER 1, 2019 – NOVEMBER 1, 2020***

RALPH ADAMS
GREGG AGENS
HARMONY ALBERT
PEG BEUTE
SANDRA BRINDLE
JAN BUCHERI
ALFRED CHURCH
ANNE DANIEL
ALICE ENGEL
PAULINE GRIFFIN
VELMA GUNSELMAN
CAROL HENDERSON
THOMAS HOKAJ
AVIS HUBBARD
JOHN HUBBARD
SYLVIA JOHNSON

ERICA JONES
SALLY JONES
VIRGINIA KOCHANCZYK
JAMES KRAUT
ANNA MAE LEE
JANIE MORAN
NATASHA NIERATKO
JAMES RAGEN
REV. RICHARD SCHULTZ
CHRISTINE SEDGWICK
JOSEPH SILVIS
EMILY STELMACK
ROBERT WAGNER
REV. RALPH WALTER
HELENE WEED



Benevolent Allocation Group (BAG)
Annual Report for 2020

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 would come from estate gifts. During the ministry year of 2020 we did not receive unrestricted money that would be eligible for a BAG distribution.

Submitted by,

Pastor Bill Coleman



LITURGICAL LIFE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Although it has been a very different year for our volunteers who assist with worship services, they have been there to help every step of the way. Due to the pandemic, in-person worship was suspended in March. During the shutdown of March-June, services were recorded and available online. In-person worship began in July, but due to an increase in covid numbers, services were suspended mid-November through the end of the year. Worship services have been available on Facebook Live since July and also accessed on the Luther Memorial website. Throughout all of these changes, our assistants and lectors were happy to help in any way they could.

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

The Christmas trees in the main church were set up as well as the tree in the narthex area. Thank you to David Buerk, Les Fobes, Charlie Lintelman and Betty Pletz for their assistance with this.

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

LECTORS ~ 10:30AM

Christy Adams
Jack Bartlett
Pat Bellingham
Mitchell Boyd
Loretta Deeds
Alaina DiTullio
Ann Flick

Les Fobes
Evelynn Graffius
Linda Graffius
Eric Hedlund
Linda Meleragno
Cathy Meyn
Jane Moran

C. Noelle Partusch
Christine Satur
Lois Smith
Mike Snider
Stan Rose
Ellie Wertz

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

Diane Banks
Pat Bellingham
Rob Benacci
Josh Graffius
Roberta Lobaugh

Jan MacInnes
C. Noelle Partusch
Stan Rose
Lois Smith

Mike Snider
Elizabeth Stroup
John Tell
Peyton Thomas

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Even though our communion assistants were only able to help prior to our services being held online, we thank them for their willingness to serve Luther Memorial. We are looking forward to 2021 and seeing them at our services soon.

Cheryl Brown
Jennifer DiTullio
Josh Graffius
Martha Klomp
Sally McAfee
Jack Tell

Joanne Dahlstrand
Cathie Dugan
Dave Griswold
Amy Kurtich
Stan Rose
Kathy Weisman

Mary Daniels
Ann Flick
Elaine Kern
Jan MacInnes
Bonnie Silvis
Linda Young

ACOLYTES

Serving as an acolyte is an important part of our worship, however, this year many of our youth did not have the opportunity to assist. We thank those that served during our services when it was possible. If your son or daughter would like to serve as an acolyte, please see Pastor Coleman, Beth Keller or contact the church office.

Andrew Bebko
Addison Botelho
Gabriel Botelho
Madison Chaffee
Ely Cooney

Alaina DiTullio
Evelynn Graffius
Marian Graffius
Krista Partusch
Kara Partusch

Gabe Stroup
Mitch Stroup
Jeana Williams
Jaden Williams

ALTAR GUILD

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

Diane Banks
Sharon Burke
Joanne Dahlstrand
Dave Griswold
Jean Tatar

Nancy Benacci
Helen Collins
Mary Daniels
Martha Klomp
Dorothy Youngman

Linda Brandt
Jessica Copfer
Loretta Deeds
Amy Kurtich

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 2020***

Our Food Ministry Program, now in its eighth year, was thwarted by the pandemic in allowing us to reach out to parishioners in need for most of 2020. Thankfully, the Care & Health Ministry arm of the church picked up the slack and filled the need when possible.

This year only 14 meals were prepared by our participating volunteers. We are hopeful 2021 will allow us to continue this valuable service. If you are interested in helping out either in food preparation, assisting at funeral luncheons, or know of someone within our church community who could benefit from this service, please contact the church office at (814-454-0106) or Elaine Kern at (814-392-7189) or by email: elaine.kern@roadrunner.com. We are always grateful for new participants!

No funeral luncheons were held in Fellowship Hall in 2020.

Elaine Kern
'Feed My Sheep' Food Ministry Coordinator



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

2020, well what can we say, it has been a rough year for all and I hope that everyone has been able to remain healthy and safe. Although this year was difficult, I hope that you were able to connect/reconnect with family during the quarantined time. I don't know what we would have done without all of the technology platforms; YouTube, Facetime, Zoom, Teams and all the others. I would like to thank our Church Leaders for doing what they could to keep us safe and when we could return, I hope the verses between pews could be enjoyed and created a smile, I know they did for me and others that I shared them with. I, personally, will remember the Blessings in my life and try to not "sweat the small stuff" in 2021.

Congregational life had a few events in 2020, prior to the shutdown, which consisted of our annual Souper Bowl in January, Share the Love Coffee Hour in February and our Spring Tureen in March. All were successful. We, unfortunately, were unable to have our annual Mother Daughter Banquet due to Covid 19. We hope to bring this event back in 2021, but only time will tell what events will be able to go forward. We thank all those who participated and help our events continue to be a success. We look forward to a "party" when it is safe to do so.

Our sincerest thanks are extended to all who attended and supported our events and also to Pastor Coleman, the Assisting ministers, Walt, Members of the choir, Norma and all the behind-the-scenes participants for allowing us to feel connected to our church family and giving us the ability to continue to worship throughout 2020.

As I've said in past reports but I feel it's worth repeating, it is not one person/group that makes each event a success. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work with each of our committee members, and I appreciate the amount of time, dedication and energy that is put into all we do.

Committee Members:

Sandy Barbaro, Lois and Les Fobes, Joe Helm, Judy Johnson, Elaine Kern, Tom and Martha Klomp, Kathie Kraut, Roberta Lobaugh, Jan and Skip MacInnes, Cathy and Skip Meyn, Carol Smith and Lois Smith.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Silvis



ALTAR FLOWERS
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Worshipping together online was definitely something to get used to during 2020. Many changes took place, but thanks to many the beauty of our weekly altar, lectern and columbarium flowers continued.

Flowers add a touch of beauty to worship services each Sunday. Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar on Sunday is welcome to call the church office. Lectern and Columbarium flowers are also available on any Sunday. If you would like flowers at the altar, lectern, or Columbarium, please contact our church secretary, Norma Buerk.

Flowers not taken by those who sponsor them are delivered to those in the hospital, homebound, to celebrate an upcoming birthday, or someone who 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.
- Volunteers for their help with delivery of cheer baskets and cookie bags to our homebound.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Buerk

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



Thank you to the Sunshine Committee gals, for all the cards they signed and addressed to our Homebound friends, which in 2020 was composed of the following volunteers – Norma Buerk, Coleen DiCenzo, Jane Kinzig, Lois Smith and Pat Young.

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

We are always grateful for donations to our card supply, and if anyone feels so inclined, we will also take donations for mailing all those cards. Just over 401 cards were sent out in 2020 – 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



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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

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!

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

Any profits from our usual small fundraisers are put to good use, assisting the work of the W/ELCA at Luther Memorial and on the Synod and National level. Yearly gifts have been given to City Mission, Bethesda/Holy Trinity Community Center, Bethany Food Bank, Bethany Outreach Center, confirmation retreats, and Luther Memorial Academy, with the monetary gifts continued even though we had few actual meetings/fundraisers because of the pandemic.

Our 2 circles did fill 40 Christmas stockings/gift bags for Warren State Hospital residents again this past November; in spite of Covid 19. . . and Tea Bag Invites continued to be given to any woman who joined the church during the year.

For **many** years we have supported the “Pennies for Poverty” project – having canisters at all church entrances for people to throw in their change or dollar bills. Because of the pandemic, there was no Conference One meeting, at which time we would have designated who the recipient would be for 2020 – we are holding on to any funds until the summer of 2021, when a group will be named for those funds.

We have also supported for several years, mostly through Pat Bellingham’s many efforts, the Human Trafficking issue, and awareness of same, through outreach and education work locally and throughout our NW PA Synod Women’s Organization.

Officers in 2019: Patricia Young–President, Mary Mumford–Vice President, Sandra Brindle–Secretary (after her passing, Lori Perry took over that position) and Betty Pletz–Treasurer. Committee members were Mission/Action–Marilyn Bohn. Leader for the Tuesday Evening Circle is Barb Holcomb, and for Deborah Circle–Judy Johnson.

Thank you to all who support Women of the ELCA, for your service and dedication. We invite any and all women, regardless of age, to join one of our active Circles (both meet on the *first* Tuesday of the month, one in the parlor and one group meets in members’ homes). Come see what we’re about! Check the monthly newsletter for news and times of meetings.

God’s blessings,

Patricia Young

President, Luther Memorial Congregational Unit

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Our Women are doing their best to stay connected with one another. With the cancellation of our Convention (scheduled for May, postponed until August, and again canceled until 2021) and the cancellation of our joint retreat with our SW Sisters, we have gone down the virtual path.

We tried a virtual retreat in September via zoom. It was nicely done but not particularly well attended. Thank you to Bishop Lozano for sharing some time with us on Friday and Saturday. Music and hymns were generously provided by Walt Gaber from Luther Memorial. We were able to share a message from Bishop Eaton. In recognition of the 50-40-10 celebration, several of our female pastors shared a few moments of their pastoral journeys. Lutherlyn provided some background and information from Deb Roberts. Jennifer DeLeon, our church-wide representative and social justice coordinator spent some live time with us as well. Some of the videos and prayer resources can be found on YouTube – NWP/WELCA Synodical Women’s Organization.

In May 2021, my term of office as President of the Synodical Women of NWP/WELCA will come to a close and it will be time to elect a new Synodical W/ELCA president. In anticipation of that event, we have a new email address. I have been sending information to our women that come from 14 counties using my own personal email account; that isn’t going to be feasible come May. So we are gradually coming to use a new email account: nwpawelcaswo@gmail.com.

The social justice issues that have been close to my heart – the Lily Project and SOAP have been on hiatus. Agencies have not been accepting clothing donations so I have a spare room full of women’s undergarments. I am looking into other Women’s service agencies that may accept our Lily Bags. The NWP/WELCA Anti Human Trafficking Coalition has resumed zoom meetings. We just had a great presentation by a survivor named Hope, her story was so very compelling. I have spoken to a hospitality class at Mercyhurst University on Anti Human Trafficking issues related to the hotel industry. When we were allowed to be at restaurants, I spoke at a dinner meeting for the NWP/WELCA Funeral Directors. Soaps are still being distributed if people are traveling.

Each year in February, the Presidents of all of the Women’s synodical groups meet in Chicago. It is a time to learn about what is going on with our church-wide organization, share what’s been happening in groups across the US, and recharge our hearts and minds for everything WELCA. 2021 will be held virtually. I am the committee chairperson for this event. By the time 2021 is over, we are all going to be well versed on distance learning. One of the difficulties in planning an event like this – we are across 7 time zones – is organizing so that everyone will be able to participate together. On a positive note, Board members and Officers of each Synodical Women’s groups are invited to join in. That’s a great opportunity for more local women to be involved in the big picture.

In a specially called meeting December 23, Women of the ELCA’s executive board decided how and when to hold the organization’s convention and gathering. They put forth 3 recommendations:

- That the Eleventh Triennial Convention, currently scheduled for August 3-5, 2021 in Phoenix Arizona, be held virtually (or digitally) on those same dates.
- That the Just Love Gathering, currently scheduled for August 5-8, 2021, be postponed and registration refunds be offered. Staff will then find other ways to build community and bring women together virtually in 2021 and 2022.
- That the Twelfth Triennial Convention and a Gathering be held in Phoenix, Arizona, during the week of September 18, 2023.

Bold Women's Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Who do you know that is a Bold Woman?

So many changes but we will be together again as a community of Women, created in the image of God, called and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

*We are not all in the same boat, we are in the same storm.
Some are in yachts, some in canoes, and some are drowning.
Be kind to one another and help whoever you can!*

Peace through Christ,
Pat Bellingham, President
Synodical Women's Organization NWPA



Erie Lutheran Parish
Annual Report for 2020



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
- 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 and
Pastor Gary Harbaugh |
| • 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 |

If you would like further information about Luther Memorial Church and Academy regarding financials, we welcome you to contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221. Thank you.