

LUTHER MEMORIAL

C H U R C H



Luther Memorial Church • 225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106
e-mail: info@luthermemorialonline.org website: www.luthermemorialonline.org
Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

Volume 52, Issue 6

August 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 am Worship *Faith Chapel*
10:30 am Worship *Main Church*
10:30am service live streamed on YouTube.
Service available on LM website on Monday

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STAFF

Pastor ~ Jay C. Mitchell
jmitchell@luthermemorialonline.org

Cantor ~ Bryan Timm
btimm@luthermemorialonline.org

Christian Education ~ Beth Keller
bkeller@luthermemorialonline.org
Sarah Prylinski
sprylinski@luthermemorialonline.org

Care Ministry ~ Jan MacInnes
jmacinnes@luthermemorialonline.org

Parish Manager ~ Miriam Scheid
mscheid@luthermemorialonline.org

Secretary ~ Norma Buerk
nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org

Luther Memorial Academy:
Administrator ~ Michelle Thom
mthom@lmaerie.org

Secretary ~ Amanda Fried
afried@lmaerie.org

Bethany Outreach Ctr. ~ Mabel Howard
mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org

Dear Luther Memorial,

Growing up there was an unwritten (though oft spoken) rule: corn-on-the-cob is an August vegetable. And only when purchased from a stand on the side of the road. That was the best corn. And to be honest, it was. The reason my parents had this rule was because in our climate here in NWPA, it takes that long for corn to mature after planting. "Knee high by the fourth of July" and then maturation in August. Maybe you could sneak a little into the first few weeks of September—especially if it was silver queen, the pinnacle of corn in my household.

I think of this every year when we reach the summer "green season." We use the color green in worship to show the ever-living nature of God but also the growth we experience in faith. It's not just a "green season" thing, this growth in faith, it lasts our whole lives long. But in this season, we hear more about Jesus' teachings and shaping of the community that gathers in his name. It's less about the historic parts of Jesus' own story and much more about the Church's part of the story. And now it's August. We're closing in on the end of this portion of the green season and our focus on growing in faith.

And it gets me wondering; what are those markers we can keep of our growth in faith? Is there a point where we should be "knee high"? Is there a point when we're fully mature? I can't help but think there is more than just how high we can grow. There's more than just how leafy our growth is, how showy we can be with our faith. There is a depth needed as well. Roots that soak up the nutrients and moisture of the soil, roots that also anchor us as we continue to grow toward the Sun.

This is the season, siblings, to tend to those roots. Yes, we are called to bear fruit, to be mature in faith, to offer shade and sustenance to those in need. Yes, we are to be ostentatious with our faith. But just being ostentatious without being rooted in Good Soil will not last long (this is starting to sound like a Parable, y'know). Rooting ourselves in Word and Sacrament, in Fellowship and Community, is a sure way to root ourselves. It ensures that what we offer the world—the fruit and shade and nourishment—comes from God and not just from us.

But neglect not those leaves either, friends. We can't just wait for fruit to sprout from our roots. There also needs to be visible and showy expressions of our faith as well. Roots alone cannot grow for long. The Sunlight is needed as well to grow. When we show and share our faith for those around us to see—when we stretch our leaves and flowers and fruit for those who encounter us to partake of—it actually helps us to grow more. It's always interesting the ways we encounter God already at work when we get to *living* our faith.

So, as you slather the butter on those ears of corn this month—and don't be skimpy!—be sure to be thankful for the nourishment that comes only from God and remember to grow!

See you in church!

Pastor Jay

A Moment in History!

Over the course of June 11-14, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod met in Assembly. Made up of 71 congregations across 15 counties, the NWPA Synod is the presence of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in this corner of Christ's Church. As with all of the 65 synods of the ELCA, the highest authority of the Synod is the Synod Assembly which takes place yearly in the late spring/early summer.

The Synod is headed by a Bishop who is an ordained minister (pastor) who has been elected and installed for the purpose of oversight of the Synod. They do not serve a single congregation but all of the congregations of the Synod. The Bishop is elected to a term of 6 years and can be reelected if they choose to be nominated again. In the ELCA we do not have "bishops-for-life" as some of our full communion partners do (such as Episcopalians and Methodists). Our bishops partake in an installation wherein hands are laid upon them (like in ordination) by the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, other bishops of the Region, and importantly by at least one bishop of the Episcopal Church. This latter point is necessary for our full communion partnership with the Episcopal Church and for ensuring the continuity of the apostolic succession – the idea that every bishop has had someone lay hands upon them who had someone lay hands upon them all the way back to the original 12 apostles.

This year, Bishop Lozano (who most recently visited Luther on the Day of Pentecost and for LMA Graduation) stood for reelection among a number of pastors whose names were also put forward for the position. The process of the Election of a Bishop is a unique one. It can take up to five ballots:

- + The first ballot of the process is what is known as an "Ecclesiastical Ballot." It consists of a blank piece of paper (or in our case, a blank box on our computer screens as we did this part remotely). Onto the piece of paper each voting member (each congregation gets three: Pastor and two Lay Voting Members) writes the name of an Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament (a pastor or a bishop) in good standing on the roster of the ELCA. 75% is the threshold for election. If one person does not have 75% of the ballots, all those whose names are left on the ballot after a period where pastors are able to remove their names, are advanced to the second ballot.
- + The second ballot, consisting of all those names which were not removed after the first, needs 75% of the ballots to elect. If there is no election, the top seven candidates are advanced to the third ballot.
- + The third ballot, consisting of (up to) the top seven candidates from the second ballot stand. There is often an opportunity for questions or speeches at this point. 66% of the vote is required for election on this ballot. If one candidate does not receive 66% of the vote, the top three candidates are advanced to the fourth ballot.
- + The fourth ballot, consisting of the top three candidates from the third ballot require 60% of the vote to elect. If there is not an election, the top two candidates advance to the fifth and final ballot.
- + On the fifth ballot, 50% + 1 vote is required to elect. A simple majority of those voting.

This year, the NWPA Synod participated in all five ballots and on the fifth elected Pastor Kristen Papson as bishop. This is exciting news! Bishop-Elect Papson is a daughter of Luther Memorial. She was baptized and confirmed here. She graduated from Luther Memorial Academy. And her ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament took place here. What a delight!

Representing Luther Memorial at Synod Assembly were: Pastor Jay, Emma Chaffee, Barb Dennison, Pastor Brian Moran (retired), Pastor Karen Lundwall (retired), Pastor Gail Zackrison (retired), and Cantor Bryan Timm (Synod Secretary). And we were so privileged to celebrate Bishop-Elect Papson's election.

Make a point to mark your calendar for Bishop-Elect Papson's installation:

Sunday, October 19, 2025

3:30pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church, Oil City

reception to follow

It would be great for Luther Memorial to have a contingent to celebrate Bishop-Elect Papson, a daughter of our congregation and our next Bishop!



Worship *Matters!*

Adiaphora. The word of the day is adiaphora (AH-dee-ah-for-uh). Coming from the Greek, Luther uses this word to describe those things which are “undifferentiated matters.” Sometimes these are called indifferent matters, but undifferentiated is more apt. Adiaphora are those things about our life of faith that, though they may be helpful sometimes, are unnecessary for our salvation. Interestingly, most of the pieces, parts, and actions of our corporate worship fall under adiaphora.

What color are the paraments, banners, and vestments? What color is this “season”?

Not necessary for salvation.

Is there a procession? What order is the procession in?

Not necessary for salvation.

Did we sing a psalm or speak it or not have one at all?

Not necessary for salvation.

How many hymns were there? What book did they come out of?

Not necessary for salvation.

How did we receive communion? Little cups, common cup, intinction?

Not necessary for salvation.

What color is the wine? What kind of bread do we use?

Not necessary for salvation.



You see, it is not a matter of things that “don’t matter” but rather that there is a beauty in the plethora of options and ways to encounter God. The variety and diversity of our worship practices across the church and within the Lutheran tradition helps us to encounter God in different ways but also to engage with our neighbors as well. We sing one another’s songs. We speak one another’s language. We share one another’s food.

But we also are gathered at one Table which belongs to none of us and we are washed with Water that comes from God alone. Those are the things that do matter. Word and Sacrament are life for us. The love of God proclaimed in word and song breaks open the way to love that is life. The community that gathers reminds us of the embrace of God that matters.

Water, Word, Wine, Wheat, and One Another. Wherever, however, whoever; whenever these are together there is God and there are reminders of our salvation. And thanks be to God for them.



*Our love and sympathy is extended
to the family and friends of:*

Lois Fobes, Les Fobes’ wife, who died June 14.

Outreach Offering



Giving offerings to outreach ministries allows Luther Memorial to support vital work beyond our church walls, like serving those in need and spreading the gospel. It enables us to fulfill our mission of serving God and others by funding programs that improve lives, both physically and spiritually. On Sunday, August 31 our morning offerings will be donated to Augusta Victory Hospital, Lutheran World Federation sponsored hospital in Jerusalem (avh.org/).

Summer Office Hours

The Church Office will be open from 8:30am – 2:00pm through Monday, August 25. Office Hours on Fridays will be 8:30am – 12:00 noon.



Christian Education

Sunday Mornings

Second Sunday of each Month

We hope everyone has been enjoying a fun-filled summer. After all our vacations and activities wind down in August, we look forward to seeing you for our first Sunday School gathering on September 14 at 9:30am.

Headed to College?



Many of our youth are headed off to college in August. We want to keep in touch and let them know we are thinking of them and support them any way we can. Please contact Norma in the church office and share their mailing and/or email address so we can keep in contact. Thank you.

Faith Formation

Check out all the opportunities to gather for Adult Forum, Brown Bag Bible, and Bible After Dark (BAD) every month! The schedule will be slightly different this year for some, and there are resources available for others. So check it out now and let the church office know if you need to put in a reservation for any of the resources! **Faith Formation Calendars** for adults are available in hard copy on the Welcome Table near the Ramp Door. There are also electronic copies on the Facebook page and linked to the newsletters in August.



ADULT FORUM

Offered on the Second Sunday of each month from 9:15 – 10:15am, Adult Forum is an opportunity to form our faith and continue to grow as disciples of Jesus. Topics will be about history, liturgy, faith, and other topics which may or may not be "Bible Study." Adult Forum will begin Sunday, October 12.

BROWN BAG BIBLE

Offered on Thursdays at 12noon, Brown Bag Bible is an opportunity to grow more deeply in our understanding of scripture through more in-depth study. You are invited to bring a lunch. We gather in the Conference Room in the Pastoral Suite (Elevator to Floor 4). Our September gatherings will be September 4, 11, 18 and 25. We will be using Josh Scott's *Cross-Examined: Reading the Bible in Times of Division* as our guide. A copy of the book is not required, but can be purchased through the church office for \$15. Orders will be placed August 31.

BIBLE AFTER DARK

We gather on the **FIRST TUESDAYS** of the Month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row for conversation, fellowship, and mutual support among the saints! Join us at Calamari's on October 2.

This year we will be studying *Parables: Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place*. The cost of the book is \$14 and may be purchased through the church office. Please reserve by Sunday, August 31.

Catechism is getting a revamp!



It seems like there has been a change every year since Pastor Jay has gotten here. And there has. But there has also been much in flux about ConfirCamp and other programming. A general schedule has been set: For students 7th grade through 9th grade, there will be four workshops offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: November, January, March, May) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7th and beginning of

10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

Youth (and Family) Opportunities

Family Beach Night

Tuesday, August 12
Stull Nature Center
Beach area
5:30 – 7:00pm



Our L. I. A. gathering will be a night of fun at the beach! Bring your chair, towel, blanket and toys and meet us at the former Stull Nature Center area. Get creative building sand castles and have a great time playing spike ball. There could be prizes involved, too. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Let's enjoy summer at our beach! Questions? Call the church office or see Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski.

Flea Market

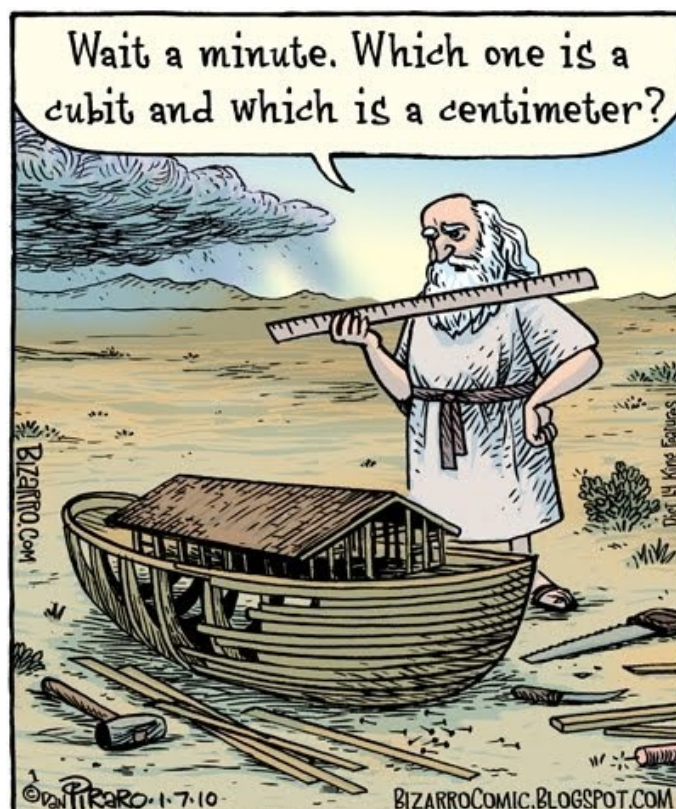
Third Saturday; May - September
9:00am – 12:00 noon
Luther Memorial Parking Lot

Flea Markets will continue on the third Saturday through September. Those unwanted items you no longer use may be exactly what someone else needs. Do some selling and find some treasures of your own at our Flea Markets.

August 16

September 20

- Set up begins at 8:00am; Flea Market opens at 9:00am
- Fill your car and trunk with all items to be sold
- Each parking space is a cost of \$10
- Tables needed to lay items on are your responsibility. These will not be provided.
- Event will be held rain or shine; bring coverings if they are needed.
- Please contact Sarah Prylinski, 814-882-1695 or prylinskisj@upmc.edu if you will be participating.



Women of the ELCA

Tuesday Circle

Our monthly meetings will begin on September 2 at 3:00pm. All women are invited to join us. If you have questions about our women's group, please contact Pat Young at 455-7736.



Deborah Circle

We'll kick off September with our gathering in the church parlor on Tuesday, September 2 at 12:00 noon. For more information, contact Judy Johnson at 833-4600.

Pennies for Poverty



As a continuing project to aid women and children in crisis, special containers for donations to "Pennies for Poverty" are located by the doors to the Main Church and Faith Chapel. Our women's groups thank one and all for your donations of coins and dollars.

Retreat

September 26 - 28, 2025
Camp Lutherlyn
500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler, PA 16001

The NWPA and SWPA Women of the ELCA will hold their fall retreat September 26-28. Our theme, Harvesting Hope, will reflect on the verse Romans 15:13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."



A Gift to LMA

A while back our women's Circles had applied for a \$300 grant through the Women of the ELCA and was one of five groups to receive the grants. Pat Young, our LM group president, attended the W/ELCA Convention in Ludlow, PA on May 30 and 31 along with Pat Bellingham and received one of the five grants awarded.

At our June 6 picnic at Luther Memorial we invited Michelle Thom, Principal of our Luther Memorial Academy Christian school, to present her with a check for \$300 to use towards food for the students who are in need of lunchtime items.

Michelle sent Pat Young a thank you for the \$300 gift and the continued support given by the local ELCA women of Luther Memorial Church.



August Sunshine Birthdays

Linda Soles 8/7
613 Noble Avenue
Erie, PA 16511



Phil Carlson 8/30
12155 Arbuckle Road
Union City, PA 16438

Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



Cool off from the summer heat, visit with us and enjoy your knitting and crocheting. Join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to work on your favorite yarn projects. We meet from 10:00am – 12:00 noon and would love to share the morning with you. Mark it on your calendars for the summer.

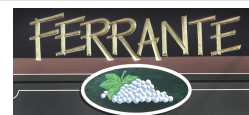
August 12 and August 26

If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476 or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221 with any questions. Please let us know if you are low on yarn and some can be dropped off to you.

OWLS

Wednesday, August 18
Reservations: 12 noon
Travel Time: 1 ½ hours

We're going on a road trip . . . with a delicious destination. Back by popular demand is Ferrante's Winery and Ristorante in Geneva, OH (5585 N. River West). Reservations due to Jan MacInnes by Friday, August 8. If



you are interested in carpooling, please let Jan know.

Indoor Yard Sale



Lots of treasures can be found at our Indoor Yard Sale. Whether you're decluttering your home or looking for some fabulous deals, this sale is just what you're looking for. Stop down, look around, and great items will be found!

Saturday, September 6
8:00am – 1:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Items for the sale may be dropped off at the church beginning Sunday, August 17. Books, TV's or large electronic items, and soft furniture will not be accepted. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Erie County CROP Walk for Hunger

Sunday, September 28
Beach One -
Registration at 1:00pm
Walk at 2:00pm

We are walking for neighbors who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world! Join us in this special 50th Anniversary Celebration! Sign-up and start raising funds early to get a head start on helping even more of our neighbors in need on this special year!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2025
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sponsor a walker or walk yourself and take part in this year's **Crop Walk on September 28**. Take the afternoon and make a difference in our community to help fight hunger.

Our West Bayfront

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 5, 2024
5:00 – 8:00pm
Gridley Park
598 Liberty Street



Join the West Bayfront community for National Night Out 2025. This gathering of the summer enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while restoring a true sense of community. This is a totally free event for all residents of the Our West Bayfront neighborhoods. Spend an evening enjoying friendships, music, activities, and more. Whether you are 9 months old or 99 years old, there is something for everyone!

This event is generously supported by United Way Erie County.

Thank You

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We are ever so thankful for your providing dinner on Thursday, April 24 for our neighbors in Little Italy. The end of the month is a challenging time for them. They have probably run out of food assistance funds and they may have not yet received any additional assistance funds. The nourishing meal you served them and your reaching out to them fed their bodies and their spirits.

Jesus said, whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it for me. Thank you for serving Jesus and also for being his presence to others.

With thankfulness for your partnership in the Gospel,

Ron King, Pastoral Assistant and the Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



Dear Luther Memorial Church:

Thank you for your generous donation to United Lutheran Seminary. Your support is vital to sustaining our mission of providing transformative theological education to all students-through degree programs, distance learning, and Kindling Faith continuing education.

At ULS, we are committed to developing spiritual leaders who are equipped to live out God's call in the world through worship, advocacy, and care for others. Your gift helps us shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Your generosity makes a meaningful difference, helping us to shape the future of our church.

With gratitude,

Conor Brooks, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Dear Luther Memorial Church:

Please accept the sincere thanks from the Bethesda Foundation for Children Board of Directors and Bethesda Lutheran Services staff for your generous donation in support of Bethesda's Promising Futures Fund. Your gift and support are both greatly appreciated.

Every day, Bethesda helps the lives of over 8,000 kids and families with locations in Crawford and Erie County. Your donation enables Bethesda Lutheran Services to provide the kind of quality treatment and preventative programs that make a difference in the lives of the kids we serve and provides Bethesda the ability to continue our services. With your help, we continue to work to provide promising futures to children, youth, and families. We could not begin to provide these services without the generosity and thoughtfulness of supporters like you.

Best Always,

George R. Trauner, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Luther Memorial Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$250 to ELCA World Hunger.

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your generosity is getting to the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, Congregational Generosity

August Birthdays

Madeline Ulrich 8-2	Lincoln McCall 8-13	Caiden Snider 8-24
Karen Ruler 8-4	Allison Meyn 8-14	Dave Albert 8-24
Jack Krause 8-5	Mario Mezzacapo 8-14	Gene Kutruff 8-24
Bernie Blore 8-6	Ed Cunningham 8-14	Cooper Bebeko 8-24
Matthew Downey 8-6	Barbara Hickey 8-15	Mason Schlecht 8-24
Jeanne Gaber 8-6	Wyatt Thaxton 8-15	Ken Kraut 8-24
Pat Young 8-6	Michael Arnold 8-16	Terry Hokaj 8-25
Pat Bellingham 8-7	Robert Banks 8-16	Owen Sweeney 8-25
Linda Soles 8-7	Scott Shaffer 8-18	Ashli Sweeney 8-26
Luke Krause 8-8	Alisyn Rogan 8-18	Anna Keller 8-28
James Woodward 8-8	Susan Forsythe 8-18	Anja Blasco 8-28
Samantha Stelmack 8-8	Jay Mitchell 8-20	Les Fobes 8-30
Katherine Blair 8-9	Patricia Boyd 8-20	Phil Carlson 8-30
John Graffius 8-10	Grace Petron 8-21	Zachary Byers 8-31
Ian Steff 8-10	Kathy Sahlmann 8-21	Landen Saxton 8-31
Tessa Bartlett 8-11	Eric Hedlund 8-21	Judie Harrison - Means 8-31
Bill Hines 8-11	Chris Pirschel 8-22	Nancy O'Leary 8-31
Linda Young 8-13	Alicia Hessinger 8-23	



May 2025 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
May 4	20	94	28	142
May 11	36	62	21	119
May 18	24	66	26	116
May 25	19	65	37	111
AVERAGE	25	72	28	122



SPECIAL SERVICES:

	<u>7:00pm</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
May 29 (<i>Ascension of our Lord</i>)	63	14	77

BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: **STURTEVANT, ROGER** - Date of Death: March 29, 2025 / Date of Funeral: May 1, 2025 / Officiating: Pastor Karen Parsh

LASHER, DEE - Date of Death: April 24, 2025 / Date of Funeral: April 30, 2025 / Officiating: Pastor Karen Parsh

DOWNEY, NANCY - Date of Death: February 7, 2025 / Graveside Service: May 3, 2025 / Officiating: Pastor Jay Mitchell

ROSITER, SHARON MCGHEE - Date of Death: March 29, 2025 / Date of Funeral: May 31, 2025 / Officiating: Pastor Jay Mitchell / Preaching: Pastor Karen Parsh

MEMORIALS: **MCGHEE, SHARON** - FROM:

Linda Melaragno	Carol & Bob Davidson
Michael Martin	Patricia Boyd
Judie Harrison-Means	Martha Hilbert

LASHER, DEE- FROM:

Marilyn Rositer	Diane & Bob Banks
Sidney Lipman	Kathryn Preston
Debbie & Dick Robertson	Joan Lasher
Jan & Skip MacInnes	Patricia & Bill Gloekler
Pam Dailey	Carol & Bob Davidson
Nancy Sturtevant	Carol Geiger
General Exterminating Co.	Patty Baldwin
Greg Kern	Sturtevant family
Beth Dubik	
Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.	
Melissa Jones & Alan Milhaven	

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

June 2025 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
June 1	32	79	30	141
June 8	31	75	25	131
June 15	28	62	40	130
June 22 (<i>Beach Service</i>)	N/A	40	N/A	40
June 29	21	56	13	90
AVERAGE	28	62	27	106

**SPECIAL SERVICES - HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER:**

	<u>7:00pm</u>	<u>Total</u>
June 4	5	5
June 11	9	9
June 18	6	6
June 25	9	9

BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: **FOBES, LOIS** - Date of Death: June 14, 2025 / Date of Funeral: June 26, 2025 / Pastor Jay Mitchell officiating.

MEMORIALS:**ROSITER, SHARON MCGHEE - FROM:**

Carol Smith	Jean Jensen
Jan & Skip MacInnes	Barb & Carl Moore
Diane & Bob Banks	

FOBES, Lois- FROM:

Jan & Skip MacInnes	Gloria & Roger Wenzel
Jeanne & Walt Gaber	Dawn Weborg
Miriam & Jeff Scheid	Barb & Carl Moore
Rebecca Greggs	Carol & Bob Davidson
Donna Sedelmyer	Emma Braine
Pat Young	Mary Lou Breyley
Betty Pletz	

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None recorded.**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.**July 2025 Statistics**

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
July 6	28	49	33	110
July 13	34	62	32	128
July 20	39	49	N/A	88
July 27	24	43	24	91
AVERAGE	31	51	30	104

**BAPTISMS:** None recorded.**FUNERALS:** None recorded.**MEMORIALS:** **FOBES, Lois- FROM:**

Peggy & Willi Maier	Pamela Prinzi
Dianne Allaire	Jeanne Baker
Carol Schaal	Cindy & Eric Hedlund
Maryanne & Bill Fogleboch	Berit Benacci
Barbara & David Zurn	Robert Boeh
Carol & Mark Zamperini	Marilyn Rositer
Wendy & Greg Kern	Carolyn & James Mraz

Frances Lauffer	Denise & Ted Padden
Judith & Ronald Sutton	Joan Chalikian
Shirley & Montie Collier	Jeanne Bender
S. Shore Development Co.	Susan & William Long
Jean McMillin & David Morphy	

LASHER, DEE - FROM:

Joan Chalikian

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None recorded.**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.

May 2025 Council Meeting

1. ***Our Neighbors' Place - Homeless Shelter*** - Diane Bestvina and Pastor Ralph Mineo spoke regarding the need for volunteers at Our Neighbors' Place located at 450 East 16th Street. Schedule: Doors open at 6:45pm, smoking break from 9:00-9:30pm, bed check and lights out at 10:15pm, doors reopen by 5:00am, clients leave by 6:45pm with all belongings. Help for the 6:00-11:00pm shift is needed. Churches participating for a week are asked to supply one hot meal and have other bagged lunches for the other 6 nights, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate. Following discussion by council it is felt the best option was to share information with congregational members and give an opportunity to volunteer before we commit in the hope we have enough interest to help for a week.
2. ***Minutes*** - Upon motion it was unanimous to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025 council meeting.
3. ***Pastor's Report*** - Pastor will be out of the office the last week of June into July.
 - a. Final school chapel of the year is June 11 and classes will select the crosses for the classrooms;
 - b. Synod Assembly will be held June 12 - June 14.
 - c. Confirmation Camp begins Sunday, June 15 and will conclude Friday, June 20.
 - d. Beach service is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at the Runner's Club Pavilion, Beach 1. The 10:30am service will be held; 8:15 is cancelled.
4. ***Property Committee Dates:***
 - a. Replacement of carpeting in school classrooms is slated for Monday, July 21 - Thursday, July 31.
 - b. Durst Trucking delivered the sign for the greenspace on Friday, June 6.
 - i. Limestone façade is being prepared by Geiger.
 - ii. Chaffee Landscaping will plant red sedum ground cover between the front of the sign and curb.
 - c. Glass for office doors will be installed during summer 2025.
5. ***Erie Conference Shared Ministry Task Force*** - Survey is still going through assessment and will then be disseminated.
6. ***Safety Committee*** - Exit signs will be installed during summer 2025.
7. ***Synod Delegates*** - Barb Dennison and Emma Chaffee.
8. ***Office Computers*** - Current office computers cannot be updated to Windows 11; Windows 10 will be unsupported beginning this fall. New computers are needed for the church office and parish manager's office at a maximum cost of \$900 or less each. On motion it was unanimous that options be researched and reported on at the August meeting. Funds can be taken from a financial line item and supplemented from the Memorial Fund if necessary.
9. ***Treasurer's Report*** - On motion it was unanimous to approve the report.
10. ***LMA Administrator:***
 - a. The 2025/2026 school year has 35 confirmed new students and 72 returning students. Enrollment is now 107 students.
 - b. In the process of hiring a full-time 5th grade teach and very part-time music teacher.
 - c. Graduation went very well on Sunday, June 8.
 - d. A student council is in place for the next school year.
 - e. Currently 10 children will be attending the first week of Boot Camp; 11 for the second week.
11. ***Counting Committee*** - Volunteers will be added to the Counting Schedule.
12. ***Meetings*** - There will not be a meeting in July. The council and staff picnic (w/spouses) will be held Tuesday, August 12 in fellowship hall.

Erie Gives Day 2025



YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP A NON-PROFIT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 8:00AM – 8:00PM
12 HOURS OF GIVING

NEW! The Erie Community Foundation and our community partners will cover ALL online fees
AND sponsor the Bonus Bucks (Prorated Match Pool)!

Day and Time: The online event takes place on August 12. You have 12 hours to make your donation between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm.

Participating Nonprofits: Your organization must be a 501(c)(3), serve Erie County and either be a member of [The Nonprofit Partnership](#) or have an Agency Endowment with the Erie Community Foundation to participate in Erie Gives. **Luther Memorial Church, Luther Memorial Academy and Bethany Outreach Center appreciate your support.**

Gift Amount: The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give. There is no limit to the number of organizations you can donate to in a transaction.

Making a Donation: Simply log on to www.eriegives.org or call the Erie Community Foundation at 814-454-0843.

Credit Cards: Only Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover will be accepted. The credit card processor charges a nominal fee per transaction. The Erie Community Foundation does not receive any fees. Debit cards will also be accepted. (Credit card gift cards will not be accepted.)

Checks: Donors can write a check for their Erie Gives donation.

- Checks must be made out to The Erie Community Foundation;
- All check donations must be accompanied by a Check Donation Form. The Check Donation Form is available for download and included with this newsletter. A Check Donation Form can also be mailed to you by contacting the Foundation or our church office;
- Checks must be delivered to The Erie Community Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507) before Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Prorated Match: The Erie Community Foundation and our sponsors will enhance each donor's gift by providing a prorated match to each gift made to a nonprofit.

Your Receipt: You will receive an email receipt of your gift; please retain it for tax purposes. Unless you choose to remain anonymous, your donor information will be sent to the appropriate organizations.

(Check Donation Form on page 13)



ERIE GIVES CHECK CONTRIBUTION FORM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFITS ON ERIE GIVES!
A **\$25 MINIMUM DONATION PER ORGANIZATION** IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR CHECKS, STOCK GIFTS, OR IRA DISTRIBUTIONS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO 459 WEST 6TH STREET, ERIE, PA 16507 BY **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025**.



First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ State (Abbreviated): _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

To ensure a quick and accurate process, please clearly provide your email address — you will receive an emailed receipt for your donation.

Check Number: _____ Contribution Total \$: 0

Please list how you wish to be identified: _____

Example: Jayne & John Doe | John Doe | Anonymous

Erie Gives Nonprofit(s) Name(s) from ErieGives.org	Gift Amount
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
TOTAL	0

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: _____ Mail _____ In-person _____ Verified _____ Entered _____ Stock _____ IRA _____



Luther Memorial Academy

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2025. We wish them the best of luck as they move on to high school. Special awards were presented at the LMA Graduation Ceremony on Sunday, June 8:

**The George E. Black Award
Most Outstanding Student / Highest Honor**

WYATT NOYES



**J. David Mumford Award
For Academic Excellence**
Students who earned all A's in 7th & 8th grades

WYATT NOYES, ISLA POWELL

**The Alice C. Engel Award
for Extraordinary Effort**
Presented to a student who has shown a consistent commitment to academic excellence
and demonstrated academic improvement during the middle school years.

SIMONE BOYD

The Helen Schade Academic Fitness Awards
Awarded to students who have demonstrated
a strong work ethic and earned all A's and B's in 7th and 8th grades.

ABIGAIL ALLEN, SIMONE BOYD, GIA FRACASSI,
DEACON RIVAS, JUSTIN STOVALL, ALEXANDER TEETS

Susan M. Belott Christian Service Award
Performed 150 volunteer hours during 6th, 7th and 8th Grade
Consistently demonstrated outstanding attitude and leadership
Our graduates did not complete 150 hours.
However, we recognize the graduate completing the most hours.

GABRIELLA PAGE (98)

Reminders

Below are some items you will need for this school year:

- Supply lists for each grade can be found on our website, www.luthermemorialacademy.org
 - Click on "About"
 - Click on "Staff Directory"
 - Select the grade



Tuition Procedure



School tuition payments will continue to be processed by Vanco Services, a company endorsed by Thrivent Financial, for the 2025/2026 school year. The cost for this service is paid by the school.

- The tuition will either be deducted from your checking account, savings account, or charged to a credit card. If the credit card option is chosen, you will be responsible for a 4% fee.
- The authorization form was included in your tuition letter for 2025/2026. This form is to be returned to the school office.
- Parents have the option of making tuition payments over a 10 or 12 month period or splitting into two (2) semester payments.

Payments



TUITION BREAK: If you are responsible for a new student(s) attending LMA for the entire year, you will receive a \$500 tuition discount applied at the end of the year. Sometimes word of mouth is our best advertising!! If you know a family thinking of changing schools, let them know about us!!

School Summer Office Hours

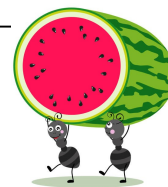


- The office will reopen on **Monday, August 4** for the remainder of the summer from 9:00am – 1:00pm.
- First day of school is **Tuesday, August 26**.

Back to School Picnic


Wednesday, August 13
4:00 – 7:00pm

See all your friends, have some tasty picnic food and play some games at our Back to School Picnic. This is a great way to kick off our 2025-2026 school year.



Head down to Presque Isle at the Rotary Pavilion and join in all the fun! Sponsored by our PTL, this great evening is free.

What You Need to Know

- **Parent Orientation Night:** Thursday, August 21 
 - Beginning at 5:30pm in the main sanctuary. Individual classroom meetings will be announced and parents will be notified soon.
 - LMA school policies and procedures will be reviewed. Paperwork will be distributed and individual classroom meetings will be held;
 - **Grades K – 5** – Students are encouraged to attend.
 - **Middle School:** Students are expected to attend with a parent
- **First day of school:** Tuesday, August 26
- **The Before School Program** is available from 7:30-8:00am.
- **Classes begin** at 8:15am each day.
- **Dismissal** is from 2:25 – 2:40pm .
- **After School Program** is held from 2:40 – 5:30pm.
- **Summer Service Hours** are available by contacting the office.



Kagan Workshop

LMA will be hosting a Kagan Workshop open to all teachers in the surrounding area on Tuesday, August 19, 2025. This training offers powerful, research-based strategies that boost engagement, collaboration and student success. You may register for this workshop at <https://www.kaganonline.com/workshops/events/42052/>

For further information or questions, you are welcome to contact Mrs. Thom at 814-454-0106.



LMA Block Party

Saturday, September 13
12:00 noon – 4:00pm
Luther Memorial
Rain or shine

This will be a Block Party to remember as LMA kicks off their 2025-2026 school year and we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our school. The day will be filled with fun and laughter with your family and friends and meeting some of our new school families, too.

Test your aim with cornhole tournaments. Adults; \$25 team of 2 / Children; \$10 team of 2. Register by calling the school office at 814-454-0106, ext. 222.

The day will fly by with all the excitement and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Delicious food
Carnival games

Great music provided by our DJ
Beer & wine (donations accepted)

50/50
Basket raffle



LMA 2024/2025 Staff

Welcome Grace Lentz to our 5th grade position and Braxton Beaulieu to our music position.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Erin VanDyke
First Grade: Mrs. Katie Romba
Second Grade: Mrs. Beth Keller
Third Grade: Dr. Kevin Zirolì
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Karen Socash
Fifth Grade: Ms. Grace Lentz
Sixth Grade: Miss Ciara Adams

Seventh Grade & Art: Ms. Amy Gilewicz
Eighth Grade: Ms. Caryn Chludzinski
Health & Gym: Mrs. AJ Noyes
Spanish: Mrs. Rebecca McCormick
Music: Mr. Braxton Beaulieu
Office Manager: Mrs. Amanda Fried
Principal: Mrs. Michelle Thom

PTL Membership Enrollment



Family Name: _____

Student's Name(s)/Grade(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Please include your membership fee of \$10.00 in cash or check payable to LMA-PTL

Fundraising Opt-Out

I would like to support the PTL and activities it provides for our school, however, I do not wish to fundraise. Here is my opt-out donation:

Name: _____

Student: _____ Grade: _____

Donation (min. \$75 requested): _____

Volunteers Needed!

One of the things that make Luther Memorial Academy a great school is our amazing volunteers. Each activity needs volunteers to get the job done. There are volunteer opportunities for every personality type and schedule constraint – there's something for everyone. Below are our specific needs at the moment.

- Fundraising Officer – PTL Board
- Volunteers to serve on the Middle School Dance Committee

For more information please contact Leah King at leahking727@gmail.com
Please return this form to the school office. Thank you!

AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 8:15/10:30am Worship	4	5	6	7 3:00pm LMA Block Party Meeting	8	9 10:00am Quilting
10 8:15/10:30am Worship	11 	12 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:00pm Family Night-Nature Center & Beach Bash 6:00pm Council/Staff Picnic	13 11:00am OWLS/Ferrante's 4:30pm Julia House 5:00pm LMA Back to School Picnic	14	15	16 9:00am Flea Market
17 8:15/10:30am Worship	18	19 8:00am Community Teacher Training 2:30pm School Board & Training	20	21 8:00am LMA Teacher Training 5:30pm Parent Orientation	22 	23 10:00am Quilting
24 8:15/10:30am Worship	25	26 LMA First Day of School 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	27 6:30pm Worship & Music	28	29	30
31 8:15/10:30am Worship						