

*ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING*



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

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

JANUARY 30, 2022

AGENDA
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2022

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

B. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

- | | |
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| 1. Nominating Committee Report | Mr. Greg Kern |
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C. WORDS OF GRATITUDE, OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Les Fobes

D. REPORT OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

Mr. Tom Klomp

E. REPORTS OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

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

F. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

H. ADJOURNMENT

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| 1. Closing Prayer | Pastor Karen Lundwall |
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LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR KAREN LUNDWALL	PASTOR IN RESIDENCE
PASTOR BRIAN MORAN	PASTOR IN RESIDENCE
WALTER GABER	CANTOR
BETH KELLER	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY
SARAH PRYLINSKI	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY
LINDA GRAFFIUS	PARISH NURSE / DIRECTOR OF CARE & HEALTH MINISTRIES
JAN MACINNES	CARE MINISTRY
MIRIAM SCHEID	PARISH MANAGER
NORMA BUERK	SECRETARY
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 BARTLETT VICE-PRESIDENT
MARK LECHNER SECRETARY	GREG KERN TREASURER
DOROTHY OVERBERG ASSISTANT TREASURER	
VICKY BLASCO	JOE HELM
EMMA CHAFFEE	KENNETH KRAUT
REV. WILLIAM E. COLEMAN	MARK LECHNER
ANN FLICK	STAN ROSE
DAVE GRISWOLD	MIKE SNIDER
TERRY HOKAJ	JOHN TELL
MARK HOWELL	PAT YOUNG

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2022
MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING
(Conducted using Facebook Live)

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 11:46 am.

1. Welcome and opening prayer were led by Pastor Coleman.
2. Discussion on the Process of Voting was held by Pastor Coleman.
3. Mark Lechner was appointed Secretary of today's meeting by Mr. Les Fobes.
4. Mr. Les Fobes announced adoption of the Agenda.

B. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. The report of the Nominating Committee was offered by Pastor Coleman. Completed ballots for the nominees will be received at the Church Office by email, telephone, or US mail, no later than 4:00 pm February 8, 2021.

C. REPORTS OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, STAFF, & COMMITTEES

1. Council president Mr. Les Fobes reviewed reports from Council, Staff members, and Congregational Committees.
2. Mr. Les Fobes announced that reports are accepted and placed on file.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Treasurer Mr. Greg Kern presented a financial review of 2020 and the church budget for 2021.

E. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

1. Council president Mr. Les Fobes offered the following resolutions for the congregation:

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 and 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.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Les Fobes announced that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried without objection.
Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Lechner

***NOMINATING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021***



The Nominating Committee, formed ad-hoc at the October 2021 meeting of Church Council, was asked to seek church members willing to stand for election to Church Council at the annual meeting on January 30, 2022. The committee members were Les Fobes and Greg Kern.

Dave Griswold has finished his first 3-year term. Vicky Blasco, Ken Kraut, Dorothy Overberg, John Tell, and Pat Young have finished their second 3-year terms.

Two other members had to leave due to health reasons.

This means that there are eight open positions.

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

PAT BELLINGHAM

OTTO 'SKIP' MEYN

LIZ STROUP

DAVE GRISWOLD

NATALIE MONTERO

JEFF SWANSON

BILL LASHER

BETTY PLETZ

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Kern
Nominating Chair

It is with much admiration for our resilient church community that we share this annual report with you. 2021 was layered with challenges, stress and uncertainty. Nevertheless, we have persevered and are emerging into the crisp winter months prepared to face 2022 with renewed hope for the future.

As we begin to think about what's next, let us be grateful and prioritize all the things and people that bring us peace, hope, love and joy. May we always remember the strength of connection: connection to each other, connection to our community, connection to our spirituality and connection to ourselves.



***REPORT OF THE
CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021***

Well tell me, did anything unusual happen this past year at Luther Memorial? The question is what didn't happen. Covid-19 is still interrupting our lives even though we have lived through distancing, mask mandates, shut downs, Zoom meetings; and shortages of rubber gloves, toilet paper, and paper towels. Thanks to Pastor Coleman, Walt Gaber and Norma, Luther Memorial was able to offer worship at 10:30 on Sunday mornings 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 recording and broadcasting skills the choirs recorded their parts and Walt combined them so that we had a recorded choir to lead us on Sundays.

It was a glorious day when restrictions were lifted and we could return to 8:15 and 10:30 worship in Luther Memorial's beautiful sanctuary. My thanks to everyone for their patience and cooperation this year. It is because the belief that we are in this together and that we provide one another the space and encouragement to serve one another in this Church and in the community.

Throughout this past year and a half of pandemic turmoil 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 tragic disease, but through prayer and our strong Christian faith we have made it day by day.

As a congregation we all received the news of Pastor Coleman's decision to relocate to Philadelphia with great sadness. I personally thought he and Amy would enrich our lives for many more years. This past fifteen years of his leadership Pastor Coleman has encouraged our congregation to reach for the stars. We have fostered new outreach opportunities in Erie and the world, created Christian education programs for our adults and children, developed a contemporary worship service, maintained this beautiful Luther Memorial property, and developed our health, nurse, and care ministry programs. As a congregation he encouraged us to be a loving and giving people together serving one another in this church and beyond these walls.

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

The Call Committee is in the early stages of their process. They are required to follow a procedure that first will be gathering information about our congregation and community. The Call Committee consists of Rob Benacci, Emma Chaffee, Eric Hedlund, Tom Klomp, Marilyn Rositer, Carol Schaal, and Michael Snider.

A long anticipated event is taking place at this time with the demolition of the Western Motel. After years of planning what Luther Memorial might do with this property we finally see the beginning of a big change happening on the corner of 10th and Sassafras Streets. The hope is that by the end of February all debris will be gone, and once spring is here grass will be planted. Once we get this green space established plans for further use will be addressed. A special thank you to donors who contributed to the purchase of the property, as well as those whose gifts made the demotion and clean-up possible.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the entire Luther Memorial staff for the 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 Bibles 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 PASTORAL ASSISTANT
TO HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021*

Last year I began this report by describing the year 2020 as challenging, which I think was a common descriptor for many of us. If I had to use a single word to describe 2021, it would be: heartwarming. Heartwarming because we continue to be blessed in our gathering for worship on Sunday mornings with an average of 32 people being on the call each week. Heartwarming, because we are able to continue a food distribution ministry that provides prepared foods to so many of our friends and neighbors each week; since the beginning of this ministry initiative we have now distributed over 5,700 bags of food.

Heartwarming because we continue to gather each Wednesday at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm around God's Word with our weekly Bible Study. And now since the end of October, we have been gathering each Wednesday at 6:30 pm with our Youth Bunch (children up to the age/sixth grade), which is indescribably heartwarming.

While we continue to struggle with our being separated, not gathering in-person, we need to recognize the depth of witness to Jesus' command to "love one another, as I have loved you". By doing what we are, we continue to make choices that have been affirming of our faith, in looking out for and caring for the other. As we gather by tele-conference on Sunday mornings, there are so many times when I wish we were face-to-face so that we could support each other with a smile, a hug, a knowing nod or wink of the eye, but I recognize the grace of our time together and the words of comfort we share over these calls. And it is very heartwarming to hear voices on our calls from Texas, North Carolina, Florida, or allow Denise and me to gather with you when we have been away.

It reminds us of the opening passage from the letter to the Hebrews, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he spoken to us by a son.." (Heb. 1:1-2). God continues to speak us through his Son as we gather together, separately, yet united in the gospel message. And we continue to thank God for you each day for your faithfulness and continued support of the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity.

This is our tenth meeting together, and I continue to be inspired and blessed by being a small part of this ministry. Your continued faithfulness and support in this ministry are proof positive of God's presence among us, and that the Holy Spirit is alive within the people of Holy Trinity.

I am further blessed by being in co-ministry with Pr. Harbaugh. His continued outreach and support during this time of pandemic, maintaining contact by various means, as best we can has been a blessing to us all. And we are further gifted by his wisdom, experience, knowledge and heart for ministry in the kingdom which is an inspiration and an affirmation of God's presence and purpose in this place. His gifts combined, with those of the pastors within the Erie Lutheran Parish, provide an amazing, collegial pastorate to all the congregations, as well as providing a witness to other congregations who must contemplate a cooperative ministry setting.

We continue to be blessed by the gifts of the community; the volunteers at the food distribution ministry, our friends from LCBA Branch #49 who provided support over the summer and at Christmas, and our friends at McLane Church who continue to support our ministries, and supply the Bibles for use in our Bible Study.

Report of the Pastoral Assistant, cont'd.:

It continues to be a blessing for Denise and me to be a part of this ministry and we look forward to sharing this journey with you, rejoicing in the next new ministry that the Lord has waiting for us around the corner, whether it be next week, next month, next year, or longer.

God's purpose for us is clear, proclaim the good news of the gospel, and you do that so well in this place. God's plan for us continues to be revealed, and each day we can be mindful, like Luther, that "we are baptized", God has claimed us as his own children, so we are to be about the work of the kingdom!

In Christ,
Ron King





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRY
ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

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 2021 due to Covid, but many of them continued. Our programs will begin again as Covid restrictions allow. Programs started took place during 2021:

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

The Cradle Roll is overseen by Jeanne Gaber.

The Baby Blanket deliveries are overseen by Linda Graffius.

The following were new or occurred in 2021:

- Fundraising for the LYO will continue and planning has begun for the next National Youth Gathering which will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota 2022.
- No attendees for Winter Retreat at Lutherlyn for 2021.
- The LYO (grades 7-12) continues to grow as does our Children’s Church.
- 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 participating in our Children’s Church Christmas Program.
- Our Children’s Church has been meeting through a rotation during each month in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:15am. PreK-K gathers the first Sunday of the month, Grades 1-3 second Sunday, LYO third Sunday of the month, and Grades 4-6 the fourth Sunday. If there is a fifth Sunday it’s a Pineapple. Spark curriculum continues to be used.
- Fundraising for the youth has continued with pies and ham loaves.
- Children’s Activity bags have been placed on hold due to Covid but are expected to return shortly.

Report of Christian Education, cont'd:

- The Care Squad this school year (20-21) was able to complete a few projects at this time. We made cards for the residents at the V.A. Hospital and decorations to be hung at the vaccination clinic where Sarah Prylinski works.
- Volunteer opportunities were able to be done this past year from God's Work Our Hands, CROP Walk, and passing out of food in December at Bethany.
- Service Sundays with the LYO continue to look for opportunities to serve members of our congregation in 2022.
- The LYO was able to host the annual yard sale fall of 2021.
- The 7th Annual Scavenger Hunt was able to happen during fall 2021. "God's Work. Our Hands" was embedded in the Hunt.
- The Vendor Fair was unable to take place in the fall of 2021. We had many interested vendors asking for its return and are hopeful for this event coming fall of 2022.
- LYO is hoping to host BINGO spring 2022 or fall 2022.
- Planned for October 2021 was a Trunk-or-Treat on a Sunday afternoon in our parking lot. This was a great event enjoyed by both church and school families.
- VBS used a modified format in the summer of 2021. We met on the front lawn in the evening from 6:30-7:30 the week of July 12-15. 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 (5) families that joined us.
- Christmas Lights at Luther was the evening of December 15 from 6:30 to 7:30. Many thanks to all who loaned us lights and inflatables to use for this special night. Thank you also to the different groups helping to decorate windows. Santa and Buddy the Elf were present too handing out treats. Both church and school families were invited to attend.

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 2021

“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. In September, a small choir of nine voices resumed scaled-down rehearsals and limited singing in our worship services. *(All activities of both the choral and handbell choirs have been suspended for the month of January 2022 due to the surge of the Omicron variant.)*

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

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. They have performed frequently throughout the year and last played for the 6:00pm Christmas Eve service.

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	

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 150 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 their talents to our worship. During 2021, these included:

Bob Banks	Saxophone
Linda Melaragno	Violin
Otto 'Skip' Meyn	Clarinet
Barb Moore	Flute & Solo Handbells

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. They need to be commended for the additional responsibility of making recommendations to council as to how our worship might be modified to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

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. Our last major event was a Bach Cantata Vespers concert & service in March 2020, shortly before the statewide lockdown was enacted. We look forward to being able to resume some sort of schedule later in the 2022-2023 season.

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

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 2021

Flexibility has several different definitions from bending without breaking, being adaptable and having the ability and willingness to adjust one's thinking or behavior. Whatever the reason we all have had to become flexible in everything we do. I think as members of Luther Memorial we all have become very flexible and have adapted to all of the changes we have experienced in 2021 and will continue to experience in 2022. We have been able to do this because God has blessed us with a strong and caring faith community.

Our Care Ministers have had to be flexible, especially in visiting members in Long Term Care facilities. Even when we couldn't visit, phone calls were made and cards were sent. And the Sunshine Card Ministry continued to send cards for holidays, birthdays, in sympathy and thinking of you. Jan MacInnes continued her bereavement ministry by sending out the Stephen Ministry grief booklets and sympathy cards. Our beautiful Blue Christmas service was held on December 8 in person and recorded.

A small number of the Magic Fingers Knitting ladies have been able to meet as scheduled using safety guidelines. Many knitted crosses and Word in Seasons booklets were taken to the UPMC-Hillman Cancer Center by Jan MacInnes. Prayer shawls, knitted crosses and stones were blessed before Pastor Coleman moved. Scarves and mittens filled the "Mitten Tree" in December and they were taken to Bethany Outreach Center.

The Older Wiser Lutherans - OWL's group resumed gathering in August when we brought our own lunch and had a brief planning meeting. It felt good to be together. In September The Tamarack Wildlife Center brought their owls for an informative and wonderful presentation. In October, 22 of us toured the Watson-Curtze Museum and the Frank Lloyd Wright exhibit. In November LMC member, Pharmacist, Kathy Sahlman gave a presentation about medications, their use, side effects, interactions and storage. She also led an informative question and answer period. We're never too old to learn and our OWL's members have learned a lot at our gatherings. In December we provided a lunch for our Christmas Party. Twenty people attended and participated in carol singing led by Walt. Skip Meyn also played his clarinet.

The "Prayer Partners" have been flexible by either in person or zoom meetings. Fourteen members faithfully pray for everyone on the lists. Names can be placed on the public/bulletin list or on our private list.

The pandemic continues to limit our hospital visitation but it has been more flexible than in 2020. Please let Linda or Norma know if you are having surgery or are in the hospital so that Spiritual Care can be given to you.

A most significant outreach during this time has been our "meal ministry". From January to July we prepared and delivered 8-22 monthly meals for our homebound and those in need. For September and October meals were given on an as needed basis. In November, 20 Thanksgiving dinners were prepared and delivered. We were unable to do a Christmas dinner because several of our "meal crew" were ill. These meals continue to be supplemented by donations from Panera and Country Fair. In December we arranged and delivered 22 cheer baskets and bags.

Care Ministry, cont'd.:

The Emergency and Preparedness Team did not meet during 2021. We hope to resume meeting in 2022. If you are interested in joining or leading this team please let Linda know.

As much as I wanted to write newsletter articles about other subjects it seemed necessary to continue to update and educate members about the physical and mental health effects of the Pandemic.

Thank you all for being flexible and “hanging in here” for this long year. And thank you for supporting the Care and Health Ministry. I continue to be proud to be a member of LMC and to be your Faith Community Nurse.

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 2021*

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 past year has continued to present challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the many restrictions, it has made our worship experience a challenge. We were able some outdoor fellowship this year and continue to be creative with social distancing in hopes of keeping everyone safe.

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 have had many changes in schedules, praise band and leadership. Despite it all, we enjoy ReCharge as a great outlet for worship and fellowship. We look forward to the next year and becoming adaptive and learn how to coexist in an ongoing pandemic.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Prylinski





***REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021***

I am privileged to be serving in my fifth year as the Luther Memorial Academy Administrator despite the on-going school challenges presented by the pandemic. We were pleased to have two experienced teachers join us this year. Mrs. Cheryl Steele assumed responsibilities as our Kindergarten teacher and Mrs. Carol Crockett became our 4th grade teacher. Both teachers have years of experience in the Erie school district.

During the 2021/2022 school year, LMA has continued to implement COVID-19 mitigation procedures. We have had a universal masking policy for students, staff, and visitors. A new LMA COVID-19 Protocol was developed to assure we were following the most up to date CDC recommendations. The school PTL hosted a vaccination clinic for kids in partnership with UPMC Hamot. With the exception of 4 days for the 1st grade class, LMA has not had to go to remote learning during the 2021/2022 school year. Finding substitute teachers for the school has been a challenge this year.

The school has been able to have many of the extracurricular activities that were not feasible last year. The Cross Country team, Lego League team, and swimming team were all able to practice and compete. The Student Council was restarted. Kindergarten and 1st Grade students have been participating in a special weekly music program through the Erie Philharmonic. Hot dog lunches and special classroom celebrations have been started up again.

LMA Sunday was simplified this year to prevent a large gathering of students and families. The annual Thanksgiving Feast wasn't able to be held in its regular format but volunteers under the leadership of Sally and Phil McAfee did prepare a delicious Thanksgiving meal for students and staff that were delivered to the classrooms.

School enrollment is up from last year and LMA continues to be a home for a diverse student body. 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:

CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL, Administrator
AMANDA FRIED, Secretary

TEACHING FACULTY 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR

CAROLYN STEELE – Kdg.
KATIE ROMBA – Grade 1
BETH KELLER – Grade 2
IMARII ANDERSON – Grade 6 Homeroom, English, Reading
AMY GILEWICZ – Grade 7 Homeroom, Social Studies, Study Skills, Art, middle school gym
CARYN WELLS – Grade 8 Homeroom, Science, Math
AJ NOYES – Health/guidance, Gym for elementary school, substitute teaching, Student Council
CHERYL CARAM – School Aide
SALLY MCAFEE – Library aide
MAUREEN KURTIC – Speech
STEPHANIE SHERWOOD – Act 89 Reading
JODY DONOVAN – Act 89 Math (Kdg. – Grade 6)
CHRIS MUSI – Act 89 Math (Grades 7 & 8)
MIRIAM SCHEID – Tech Support and Financial Support

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

JIM WERTZ – President	NATALIE MONTERO
M. J. HOWELL	MIRIAM SCHEID – Treasurer
JOHN BARTLETT	MICHAEL MCCORMICK
SHANNON MCADOO - Secretary	KATIE ROMBA – Teacher Rep.

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

Report of the LMA Administrator cont'd.:

PARENT/TEACHER LEAGUE:

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

PTL ACTIVITIES:

Graduation Reception, Capital Purchases for Classroom, Playground, teacher support.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Science Fair, Geography Bee, Challenge 24, Read Across America, Kindergarten and Grade 5 Buddies, Field Day, Lego League, Student Council, cross country running team, basketball teams, football and swimming (with St. Lukes).

SCHOOL PROJECTS:

“Kids for Kids”
School Spirit Days to support Luther Lion at the Erie Zoo
Hat/gloves/scarves collection for Bethany Outreach Center
“Deck the Halls” hallway decoration contest
Participation in “drive-thru” Christmas decoration display at LMC
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

Life change happens here because
of your ongoing support.



Committed to Serving

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

FOOD PANTRY

THERE WERE 6,196 VISITS TO OUR PANTRY SERVING 426 FAMILY MEMBERS

CLOTHING CLOSET

There were **2,655 visits** made to our closet by **1081 unduplicated family members**. We received over **26,911 pounds of clothing and household goods**.

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

The Annual Turkey Man Drive: Made possible by Second Harvest Food Bank, Erie Insurance, Cornerstone Construction, and a wealth of volunteers throughout the community who believe in the importance of helping those in need. In November, **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 1132 households** took advantage of programs at our center in **2021**. Over **145 unduplicated** volunteers gave **4,098 hours** of their time to make a difference in the lives of those in need. In addition, we had an average of **36 volunteers per month** who gave an average of **342 hours per month** to IMPACT the lives of the families we serve at **BOC 254**.

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

Board Members:

Executive Team:

Carol Gleischner
President

Casey Hedlund
Vice President

Marnie Brown
Secretary

Eric Hedlund
Treasurer

Brenda McBride

Tim Ward

Nik Zaphris

Ron Oliver

Jim Horvat

Patricia Bellingham

Shawn Bednard

Executive Director
Mabel Howard



A very special thank you to our **HOPE TEAM:** Organizations, Businesses and Individuals contributing \$5000 or more in 2021: Luther Memorial Church, Luther Memorial Congregation, PSN~ Plastics Services Network and Highmark Health. All of our donors, large and small as well as our volunteers, make it possible for Bethany Outreach Center to continue on it's good work.

Executive Director: Mabel Howard	Executive Assistant: Luanne Churchill
Location: 254 East 10 th Street, Erie, PA 1503	Office Phone: 814-456-6254
Website: www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org	Email: mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org

LMC PROPERTY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

The year 2021 proved to be uneventful when it boiled down to maintenance on our property. However, the purchase of the Western Hotel located at 10th and Sassafras was a major event for the congregation of Luther Memorial. Our gratitude goes to the members of Luther who contributed to the purchase and demolition of the hotel. A thanks also goes to the Property Committee members who solicited bids for demolition: David Buerk, John Evans, Les Fobes, Jeanne Gaber, Mark Howell, Beth Keller, Tom Klomp, Miriam Scheid, Jeff Swanson and Don Tatar. Rick Kern, Bill Lasher and Greg Kern also provided input as issues arose during the demolition process. The hope is that the lot will be cleared by the end of February and grass planted in the spring.

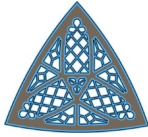
During the summer Alex Construction pointed the stone on the nave and waterproofed the exterior.

General maintenance for the year total was \$46,226.59. The total for the exterior stone work was \$79,398.54. This expenditure was funded by the Foundation.

This year the Property Committee is beginning research on the school heating and ventilation system, lighting for the parking lots and greenspace, and a plan for the parking lot once the hotel is demolished.

Les Fobes





LUTHER MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

During 2021, the Luther Memorial Concert Series (LMCS) committee members included: Pat Bellingham, Molly Gaber, Walt Gaber, Brian Hubbard, Greg Kern and Mark Lechner.

Obviously, the pandemic has severely impacted our ability to present a program this season. Fortunately, we were able to prepare and present one Bach Cantata Vespers service/concert days before the pandemic reached our community in March 2020.

Due to the unknown and ever-changing timetable for the progression and eventual resolution of the pandemic, we did not announce specific plans for a 2020-2021 season. We 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. We solicited donations during the summer of 2021 in anticipation of limited resumption of performances and those have been applied to the resumption of "Sunday Morning Mini-Concerts". Your support is appreciated and will be necessary to fully resume this ministry.

Bach Cantata Vespers

We have not presented any Bach Cantata Vespers (BCV) programs since March 8, 2020 immediately before the pandemic. Preliminary plans have been made for two future Bach cantatas, but those are on hold until there is clarity around the rehearsal and performance of choral concerts post-pandemic.

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

The 2021 **Christmas Eve concerts** were reduced to 15-minute extended organ preludes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 - 2021

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 2021 include:

Pr. Karen Lundwall
Pr. Bill Coleman
Mary Daniels
Betty Pletz

Pr. Brian Moran
Jessica Copfer
Cathie Dugan

Cantor Walt Gaber
Joanne Dahlstrand
Les Fobes

At the time of last year’s annual meeting, we were all hopeful by the annual meeting in 2022 we would be on the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic. We now know that was not to be. We are still in the midst of dealing with the challenges of living “in pandemic times”. We are all working hard to do what is needed to meet those challenges head on, mainly returning to in-person worship and resumption of church activities, through collaboration on many fronts. Thank you to the Pastors and Walt, Norma and Linda, as well as many, many volunteers, for the hours of thought and hard work you have put into making all this possible.

The committee would especially like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Lundwall and Pastor Moran for the time and thoughtful care you give to providing ministry to the congregation during this time of pastoral transition. It is much appreciated.

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

We have challenges ahead as we navigate the process of calling a new pastor, but I am very hopeful about our future. In the past two years, we have learned foremost that we have a strong church family. We care greatly for each other, and we care greatly for the ministry of Luther Memorial Church. May we remain always “Joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

Respectfully submitted,


Cathie Dugan

EVANGELISM / HOSPITALITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021



Evangelism / Hospitality Committee Members:

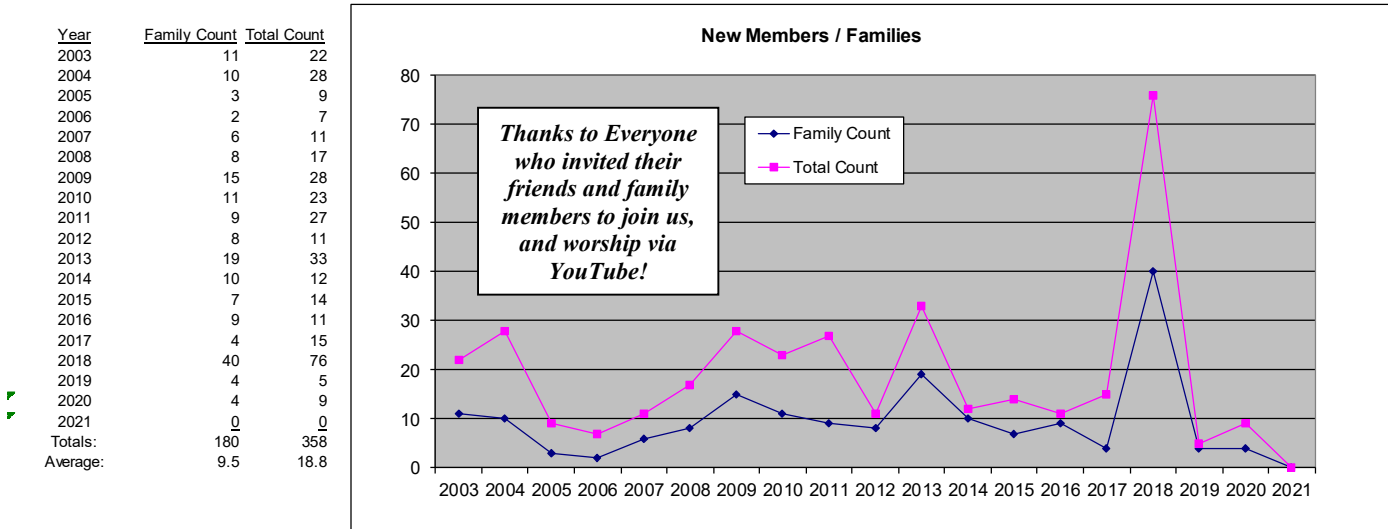
Pat Bellingham	Mike Daniels	Casey Hedlund	Jeff Swanson
Vicky Blasco	Ann Flick	Eric Hedlund	Linda Swanson
Cheryl Brown	Les Fobes	Michael Hedlund	Lee Swenson
Montie Collier	Lois Fobes	Brian Hubbard	Pat Young
Shirley Collier	Lynnette Gustafson	Jan MacInnes	

In Mid-March 2020, because of the situation with COVID-19, we stopped performing our normal weekly “Hospitality” duties greeting folks warmly as they arrive and engaging visitors or others who are new to our church. However, we did help with the refresh of the church photo directory. The new one is expected to be finished this spring.

1) Update of Photo Directory - Thank you to following who helped Norma with this project:

Vicky Blasco	Ann Flick	Pat Young	Casey Hedlund	Mike Hedlund
Cindy Hedlund	Eric Hedlund	Lee Swenson	Cheryl Brown	Norma Buerk

2) New Members / Families Through 2021 – we did not receive any in 2021



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

- Average attendance before Covid in 2019 was 165 / week. In 2021, if we include Facebook Live and YouTube, average attendance was 211 / week. *Even if some of the data from on-line attendance could have been overstated, it still shows a very good year of attendance for our congregation!*

Evangelism/Hospitality, cont'd.:

- We had 10 Baptisms in 2021:

August Hunter Wertz
Eleanor Grace Wertz
Kimberly Ann Wertz
Madeliene Harper Wertz

Samantha Claire Stelmack
Evan Anthony Duran
Kajsa Jane McClintock

Elijah James Montroy
Ezra Lee Montroy
Noah Alexander Montroy

4) Thank You!

- To the Greeters who volunteered during periods when we were having socially distanced church services.
- To Staff members and Congregation members who took the time to invite acquaintances from the school, their friends, and family members to join us – at church or on YouTube or Facebook Live!

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hedlund





LITURGICAL LIFE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Luther Memorial worship volunteers have become very used to change during the past couple years due to Covid. During 2021 the 10:30 service transitioned from being offered on Facebook to being live streamed and made available on our Luther Memorial website and YouTube.

The ever-changing Covid numbers play a role in how our worship services are led and safe ways for communion to be distributed. These changes affect all those assisting in our worship services, and we thank them for their continued dedication.

We are very thankful to Pastor Lundwall, Pastor Moran, and Michael Snider for leading our worship services while we work with the Synod to secure a permanent pastor.

Communion is distributed differently when Michael Snider preaches as he is not yet an ordained pastor. Many of our communion assistants attended training led by Pastor Sandra Jones and they act as Lay Distributors on these Sundays.

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

The Christmas trees in the main church were set up, as well as the tree in the narthex area. Thank you to David Buerk, Les Fobes and Charlie Lintelman 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
Diane Banks
Jack Bartlett
Tessa Bartlett
Pat Bellingham
Emma Chaffee
Anthony Cimino
Loretta Deeds
Cathie Dugan
Jasmine Eagle
Ann Flick
Les Fobes

Jennifer Foutz
Patricia Gilbert
Grace Graffius
Linda Graffius
Dave Griswold
Lynnette Gustafson
Eric Hedlund
Pam Masiroff
Linda Meleragno
Jane Moran
C. Noelle Partusch
Krista Partusch

Christine Satur
Miley Schill
Lois Smith
Caiden Snider
Mike Snider
Lee Swenson
Stan Rose
Marilyn Rositer
Jonathan Ulrich
Ellie Wertz
Maddy Wertz

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

Pat Bellingham
Rob Benacci
Dave Griswold

Jan MacInnes
C. Noelle Partusch
Stan Rose

Lois Smith
Mike Snider
Elizabeth Stroup

LAY DISTRIBUTORS

Cheryl Brown
Mary Daniels
Ann Flick
Linda Graffius

Dave Griswold
Tom Klomp
Martha Klomp
Jan MacInnes

Sally McAfee
Stan Rose
Linda Young

Liturgical Life Committee, cont'd.:

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Cheryl Brown
Mary Daniels
Jennifer DiTullio
Cathie Dugan
Ann Flick

Dave Griswold
Elaine Kern
Martha & Tom Klomp
Amy Kurtich
Jan MacInnes

Sally McAfee
Stan Rose
Bonnie Silvis
Kathy Weisman
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 Beth Keller or contact Norma in the church office.

Addison Botelho
Gabriel Botelho
Ely Cooney
Alaina DiTullio

Evelynn Graffius
Marian Graffius
Krista Partusch

Kara Partusch
Gabe Stroup
Mitch Stroup

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild volunteers prepare for the celebration of communion. Many adjustments to preparation have taken place over the past few months and we thank our altar guild for their continued patience and understanding. Due to Covid, communion by cup is done each Sunday; intinction has not been reinstated.

Nancy Benacci
Sharon Burke
Jessica Copfer
Mary Daniels

Loretta Deeds
Cathie Dugan
Dave Griswold

Martha & Tom Klomp
Amy Kurtich
Jane Moran

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

***'FEED MY SHEEP' FOOD MINISTRY PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021***

Our Food Ministry Program is beginning its 10th year of service to our congregation. In 2021, our efforts to provide continuous food for parishioners in need were again thwarted by the pandemic, and once again the Care & Health Ministry arm of the church picked up the slack and filled the need when possible.

This year only 24 meals were prepared by our participating volunteers. We are hopeful 2022 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 Norma in the church office at 814-454-0106 or by email: nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org or Elaine Kern at 814-392-7189 or by email: elaine.kern@roadrunner.com.

We are always grateful for new participants!

One funeral luncheon was held in Fellowship Hall in 2021.

Elaine Kern
'Feed My Sheep' Food Ministry Coordinator



***IN MEMORIAM
NOVEMBER 1, 2020 – NOVEMBER 1, 2021***

LARRY CHADWICK
LAURA DASCANIO
MELANIE CADDEN
THOMAS RAGEN
RICHARD RAGEN
DOLORES LYONS
STEVEN BROWN
LYNN PHEASANT
JACKIE BARBER
BENJAMIN COPFER
CONSTANCE CADDEN
JOHN FETROW
HELEN CRISSMAN
PATRICE DiTULLIO

ERIKA PIRSCHER
JOE HELM
LINDA SUTTO
VIOLA LINTELMAN
JAMES KOENIG, SR.
CHERYL ALBERT
LEOLA WIEST
ED WIEST
WILDA SUNDBERG
BOB CRISSMAN
BRENDA JUNGMAN
TIM BUNTROCK
STEVE NARUSWICZ
DOLORES DEMARCO



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

This annual report for Congregational Life will be ‘short and sweet’ as once again Covid concerns have prevented us from another year of ‘gathering together’ as a congregation.

Only two events to report on; the first one being the participation of some members of our committee in helping to plan and implement Pastor Coleman’s Farewell Event on July 24, 2021. A monetary donation to this event was made as well. The second ‘almost’ event was to be our annual Fall ‘Octoberfest’ Tureen scheduled for the first Sunday in October. Numbers in late summer looked promising for us to proceed with this event, however, by late September cases started to spike. Our committee met briefly after church and voted not to hold the event for the second year in a row. The remainder of the year did not show any improvement in the situation.

We are all weary and tired of having to be cautious and distant but we remain optimistic we will once again gather and enjoy the events we all love so much!

I would like to end with a tribute to Bonnie Silvis who has been our leader over the past several years and has recently moved on to new challenges and adventures. We wish her the best and are grateful for her past leadership and direction.

Our challenge moving forward into 2022 is to find a new leader for this committee who can bring a new energy and insight moving forward into a promising year to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Kern

2021 CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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



ALTAR FLOWERS
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

It has been good to be back to worshipping together in church and enjoy the flowers each Sunday morning. Flowers add that touch of beauty to our worship, and thanks to many the attractiveness of our weekly altar, lectern and columbarium flowers continue.

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 could use a smile. A visit and a friendly face go a long way for those who are unable to get out, see their friends and attend church.

Altar flowers that are delivered:

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

Thank you to:

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Buerk

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021



Thank you to the Sunshine Committee gals, for all the cards they signed and addressed to our church members/friends, which in 2021 was composed of the following volunteers – Norma Buerk, Coleen DiCenzo, Jane Kinzig, Lois Smith and Pat Young.

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

We are always grateful for donations to our card supply, and if anyone feels so inclined, we will also take donations for mailing all those cards. Through the Sunshine Committee just over 370 cards were sent out in 2021 – and that’s a LOTTA postage! Donations of cards or monetary gifts may be dropped off in the church office or given to Pat Young at any time throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Young
Committee Chairperson



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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

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 all 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. This past year the Bethany Outreach Center was the “21” recipient. We have also supported for several years, mostly through Pat Bellingham’s many efforts, the Human Trafficking issue in the Erie area, and awareness of same, through outreach and education work locally and throughout our NW PA Synod Women’s Organization, and also the Lily Project.

Officers in 2021: Patricia Young–President, Mary Mumford–Vice President, Sandra Brindle–Secretary (after her passing, Lori Perry took over that position, and then Pat Bellingham ended the year being the secretary) and Betty Pletz–Treasurer. Leader for the Tuesday Evening Circle was Barb Holcomb, with Pat Young taking over half way through the year, 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 mid-afternoon, and one group did meet in members’ homes, but currently gathers in the church parlor at noon. 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 2021

SOCIAL JUSTICE IS WIRED AND STRONG IN NWPA – THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA!

In 2018, one of our SWO board members heard Theresa Flores, founder of the SOAP Project, speak at a W/ELCA event. Theresa is an author, counselor, speaker, and survivor of Human Trafficking. At 15 years old she was selected, groomed, drugged, raped and blackmailed into the life of sex slavery. Mary Alice thought it would be a good idea to look into this.

So for 3 years and counting, we have used the SOAP Project – Saving Our Adolescents from Prostitution – started by Theresa, to bring awareness about Human Trafficking. We get small bars of hotel soap, labels with the HT Hotline number and leave them in restrooms along interstates and highways, in airports, convenience stores, anywhere with a public restroom. We also have a group of women who canvas our local hotels with information on how the hotel industry can be aware and keep their properties and guests safe. In the past 6 months we have visited 55+ hotels in the Erie area. Since 80% of the sex in trafficking happens in a hotel, that venue is key to promoting awareness to the public and help for the victims.

Organizations from youth groups to funeral directors have been able to hear our message. It is a very dark subject but one that needs to be brought to light so that we can do God's work - healing for the victims and prayer for a change of heart for the perpetrators.

The SOAP Project isn't just about getting bars of soap to victims, it's about engaging the community in collaboration. This past year we have gotten assistance from Mercyhurst University students who are either in cyber security or law enforcement career paths. Those students in turn will take their visiting experiences, move back into their communities and hopefully, continue to spread the word and enthusiasm for social justice. Various groups from church youth groups to the retired Sisters of St. Joseph label the soaps for us.

Recently, we have collaborated with Truckers Against Trafficking. They have a wonderful program focused on various aspects of the transportation industry – school bus drivers, over the road truckers, truck stops, aviation industry, commercial bus drivers. Their programs are well organized, industry specific, and very useful. This past week, Karen Hollinsworth and I visited 8 school districts in our county. We had folders of information provided courtesy of TAT – a CD with a 20 minute training video for school bus drivers, aides, and crossing guards, a poster for the break room, and individual cards with helpful numbers on them. All of the materials are also available free of charge on the TAT website. We gave the folders to either the school bus garage secretaries or the school administration office, whichever area we found first. ALL were very appreciative of our efforts and assured us that they will look over the materials and use them for safety in-services and workshops. Since school bus drivers see children on a regular basis, they know who picks them up, drops them off, if they suddenly have suspicious tattoos or bruises, or are fearful of getting off the bus. Drivers can see first-hand some of the red flags that children are being trafficked.

In NWPA we have an organized group of professionals that make up the Anti Human Trafficking Coalition of NWPA – Erie. It is a group made up of law enforcement, judicial system members, medical professionals, social service providers, educators and of course, W/ELCA. It is held via Zoom once per month usually with a speaker on a pertinent topic. It is centered at Mercyhurst University. The Coalition is presently working on including Human Trafficking as a topic for the 211 County Information System. It is not designed for emergencies, just as an information resource for someone who may have questions about local services available for trafficking victims and their families.

Women of the ELCA

The Lily Project is finally running again. We were unable to give any gift bags to the ER because of the pandemic. Now, once again, thanks to the generous donations of clothing from Luther Memorial, Lamb of God, Mt. Calvary, and Abiding Hope, women who were assaulted can go home with dignity, wearing new undergarments and clothing. In January, 24 gift bags were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital. Each bag contains underpants, a bra, socks, tissues, and a prayer square. Extra clothing items are available at the discretion of the forensic nurse.

The Church Wide Organization of W/ELCA is making strides to get back to a normal function. Several of the positions in the organization that had to be cut due to the pandemic, have been reinstated. Last year our Leadership conference centered on the idea that we need to PIVOT – NOT PANIC. That mentality has served us well. We will probably continue to do things differently but better.

Our Synodical Women will hopefully be able to meet for the weekend Convention May 13-14 at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow. Plans are tentative but at this point we hope it will be possible.

My term as President of NWPA Synodical Women is over this May. I'm several years over my limit. However, I have taken it upon myself to name myself as the Social Justice Coordinator for NWPA. I'm not about to give up my work, just because I'm not the President anymore!

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly now,

Love mercy now,

Walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work

But neither are you free to abandon it.

~ The Talmud

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

