

# LUTHER MEMORIAL C H U R C H



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Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

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December 2021 / January 2022

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 & 10:30am *In-person Worship*  
*held in the Main Church*  
10:30am service live streamed on YouTube  
Service available on LM website on Monday

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## KEEPING ADVENT

The word *advent* means *coming*. During these four short weeks in the Christian year, we watch and wait for the signs of Christ's coming among us now and in the future, even as we prepare to celebrate his advent as an infant at Bethlehem. The full significance of the Advent season often gets lost in frenzied preparations for December 25. Here are some suggestions for keeping Advent as the season it was meant to be.

*Use Advent to help find your way in a culture in which many have lost theirs. Wait awhile to put up your decorations, and keep them simple. Shop local. Purchase cards or gifts from groups that help others. Send a donation to the ELCA Hunger Appeal, Bethany Outreach Center, or other nonprofit in honor of someone who has everything. Live so that those who have lost their way might know the gift of God's love in Christ Jesus.*

*Use Advent's four weeks to engage in activities that can clear your mind, simplify your life, and nourish your faith. Put four blue candles (or any other color) on a table. During the day or evening, light one candle for each week in Advent. Read one of the scripture passages from the previous Sunday's worship, pray the prayers in that Sunday's bulletin, and add your own prayers. Read a devotional book. Come to worship on each of the four Sundays to meet Christ as he comes to you in word, water, bread and wine.*

*Use Advent to receive the One who comes to earth's people and who works through us today. Give a gift to a person or family whose budget is stretched then. Send cards to those who are ill, alone, or grieving. Volunteer with one of the organizations helping others in the days before Christmas. Take hats, gloves, and scarves to Holy Trinity, Trinity Center, or Bethany Outreach to keep children and adults warm. Let Christ's love reach others through you.*

*Dare to be counter-cultural this Advent. Create some new traditions. Look for the signs of Christ's coming in your life and in the world.*

*Peace. Pastor Karen Lundwall*

## Luther Memorial ReCharge

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**Sunday, December 12**

	<u>Time:</u>
<b>4:00-5:00pm</b>	Dinner & Fellowship
<b>5:00-6:00pm</b>	Worship



Join us to celebrate the holidays, our family and friends as we come together for a very merry Christmas gathering. Carols, hot cocoa, games, laughter and fellowship will certainly put that special Christmas magic in your day.



**Welcome the new year and worship with us at ReCharge on Sunday, January 9, 2022:**



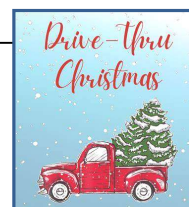
	<u>Time:</u>
<b>4:00-5:00pm</b>	Dinner & Fellowship
<b>5:00-6:00pm</b>	Worship

## Christmas Wonderland

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**Wednesday, December 15**  
**Luther Memorial Parking Lot**  
**6:30 - 7:30pm**

There's something about Christmas lights and decorations that just put a smile on your face. Since we decorate the inside of our church, we thought it would be fun to get some Christmas on the outside, too. Drive thru our parking lot on December 15 and see our church sparkle with lights and decorations that will surely put a smile on your face and Santa's, too.



## Live Streaming 10:30am Worship Service

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Sunday services are held in person at 8:15am and 10:30am in the main church. **Our 10:30am worship service is live streamed on our church YouTube Channel.**

To watch the worship service on YouTube live, go to YouTube, and in the search bar, type in "Luther Memorial Church, Erie Pa". Subscribe to the channel. If you have any problems or questions, please reach out to Norma Buerk.

A recording of the worship service is posted to our church webpage during the week. To watch the service on Luther Memorial Church's website go to the "Resources & Online Worship" tab and then click on the "Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study" tab.

## Holy Communion Practice for those Worshipping from Home on Sunday Morning

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At Luther Memorial Church we are grateful to provide the option of worshipping from home or worshipping in the building, and to allow each person to make the best decision for themselves, but there is a real loss for those unable to come to worship in the church building on Sunday morning, as they are unable to receive bread and wine from the Lord's table. Understanding that the bread and wine is a sustaining gift from Jesus that is blessed and received in community, we now have available bread and wine in individual packets that, after being blessed on Sunday morning during our worship, will be available for those worshipping from home to pick up at the church during the week. The intention is that you take home enough bread and wine for each member of your family for the month. During our worship service, those worshipping from home would set before them the consecrated bread and wine, and then receive the bread and wine when those who are in person for worship do. To make arrangements to pick up the bread and wine from the church please contact Linda Graffius by email at [lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org), Norma Buerk by email at [nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org), or by calling the church office at 814-454-0106, ext. 221.

## Calling All Youth

**Saturday, December 18  
8:30 – 11:30am**

We're going to get together at Bethany Outreach Center, 254 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and spread some Christmas joy. Join us for a morning of food distribution to help others. Be sure to dress warm – helping others will certainly warm your heart. Please contact Sarah Prylinski at 882-1695 to let her know if you will be attending. And, keep in mind that this project will earn service hours for you as well.



## Spreading Joy

Many retirement and nursing homes have eased restrictions and we are looking forward to delivering holiday baskets and goodies. We have kept in touch with everyone through many phone calls and cards. Home-cooked meals have been delivered throughout the year to many of our homebound and families that have been quarantined. Our relationships with one another have remained strong and continue to grow. We would also like to thank those that contact us when someone needs a helping hand. During this holiday season we are looking forward to brightening the day for some very special people.

**Holiday Baskets** will be ready for delivery on Sunday, December 19.

All care facilities have been contacted, and we are permitted to include home-made cookies in our Holiday Baskets. If you would like to bake some Christmas magic in your kitchens, we would appreciate the help. Cookies may be dropped off to the church office by Friday, December 17. Thank you!



Please contact Linda Graffius, 454-0106, ext. 229 or the church office, ext. 221, if you are able to help with the preparation and/or delivery of the holiday baskets.

## Mitten Tree



Our Mitten Tree is anxiously a-waiting to be decorated with hats, scarves, mittens and gloves which will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center. The extra warmth provided is appreciated by the many who visit the Outreach Center during these blustery months.

We invite you to decorate our Mitten Tree, located in the hall near the parlor, or you may drop your donations off in the church office.

**Blankets** are also welcomed items that are appreciated. All of these items will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center for those in need. Thank you.

## Christmas Eve Services

### *The Nativity of Our Lord Friday, December 24, 2021 Main Church*

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 5:45 P.M.  | PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT<br>CANTOR, WALT GABER |
| 6:00 P.M.  | CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE                           |
| 10:15 P.M. | PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT<br>CANTOR, WALT GABER |
| 10:30 P.M. | CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE                           |



We invite you to come, worship, and celebrate the birth of our Lord.

## Christian Education

### Children's Church

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Children's Church classes continue to gather on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:15am meeting in the classroom off of fellowship hall. To ensure safety for all our children, class groups meet monthly and masks are worn. Our December & January schedule is below. Please note that Children's Church will not be session on December 26 or January 2. Wonderful friendships are being formed and we hope your children can join us.

Children's Church schedule for our kiddos:

Pre-K and Kindergarten – first Sunday of the month  
December 5

Grades 1-3 – second Sunday of the month  
December 12 & January 9

LYO – third Sunday of the month  
December 19 & January 16

Grades 4-6 – fourth Sunday of the month  
January 23



**Our Christmas program** this year will take place during the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 19. We are looking forward to sharing this service with you.

### Presentation of Bibles

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Many of our children were presented their Bible on Reformation Sunday, but some were unable to be with us. We will be recognizing these children on Sunday, December 5 during the 10:30 worship service. Congratulations to our Bible recipients:



TUCKER MICHAEL GALLOWAY  
NOAH ALEXANDER MONTROY

CECILIA ROSE MONTROY  
AUSTIN DOUGLAS-JAMES ROMBA

### Baptism Celebration

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**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

The day of your baptism is very special and should be celebrated. All those baptized at Luther Memorial Church in 2021 will be recognized during our worship service on Sunday, January 9, 2022.

## Supporting our Youth

### Your Holiday Spread

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Your Christmas dinner will be just right with delicious hamloaf – just thaw, pop in the oven, and your tastebuds will thank you! Continuing to support local companies, Gahr's is located in Titusville, PA.



- ❖ Orders for hamloaf will be accepted through Sunday December 5.
- ❖ To place an order:
  - Order forms are located on the tables at each entrance
  - Contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or
  - Email at [nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org).
- ❖ Cost: 1 lb. hamloaf @ \$5 / \$2 lb. hamloaf @ \$8.
- ❖ Delivery: Orders will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 19.

## Music Ministry

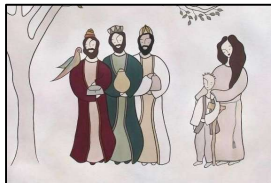
### Mini-Concerts

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The next **Luther Memorial Concert Series Mini-Concert** will be presented on **Sunday, December 19** when Barb Moore will play a number of solo handbell and flute pieces during the prelude and voluntary of both services. You can also look forward to additional instrumental and vocal soloists and the Mercyhurst Liturgical Dancers in the early months of 2022.

### Amahl and the Night Visitors

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The Presque Isle ProMusica (*a chamber orchestra in residence at Luther Memorial*) had planned to present *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at Luther Memorial in January. The hour-long opera, written by Gian Carlo Menotti for a 1954 performance televised by the NBC studios tells the story of a young disabled boy and his mother who host the three wise men as they journey to visit the newborn Christ child. Regrettably, this favorite musical event of the Christmas/Epiphany season has been cancelled due to the current and anticipated state of COVID in our community.

Hopefully, by this time next year we will be able to announce the resumption of this tradition.



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

Dolores DeMarco (Helen Collins' sister) who died Sunday, October 31, 2021

Robert Peterson (Susan Long, daughter) who died Friday, November 26, 2021

Kevin Kraut (Ken & Kathy Kraut, brother & sister-in-law) who died Friday, November 26, 2021

### Delicious Soup

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Busy with all the Christmas preparations and need a quick and delicious meal? You'll want some homemade turkey & rice soup to stay warm; made fresh on **Sunday, December 19**. Be sure to pick some up following the 10:30 service. Only \$6 a quart - YUM!

And to be prepared for the January cold, we've got some hearty chili coming your way on **Sunday, January 16**.



### Annual Congregational Meeting

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Sunday, January 30, 2022  
Joint Worship Service at 10:30am

ANNUAL MEETING - 11:30AM  
PRETZEL SANDWICH SALE WILL BE OFFERED

All members of Luther Memorial Church are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 30 after the 10:30 worship service. Please note that we will NOT have the 8:15am worship service that morning, but one combined worship service at 10:30am in the main church. Following worship, the Annual Meeting will be held in fellowship hall. The agenda will include presentation of 2021 reports, election of Church Council members, and a review of the proposed 2022 budget. Please join us to review the year and look ahead and plan for the ministry year of 2022!



## Bethesda Christmas Dinner

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This year is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year that St. Matthew's began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need, and Luther Memorial now shares in that Christmas spirit. A family Christmas dinner will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 15 at 5:30pm at the Bethesda Center, 18<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and serve. Please volunteer to help by signing the sheet on the table under the video screen or contact the church office. Approximately 120 people attend this dinner.

Volunteer and you'll be sure to unwrap many smiles this holiday season.

## Kids for Kids

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*"If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else up." -*

*Booker T. Washington*

Kindness is never hard to find at Luther Memorial Church and Academy. Challenges continue to be faced by many, and we are looking forward to making Christmas wishes come true. That's where "Kids for Kids" comes in.

Our Kids for Kids collection will continue through Sunday, December 5. All donations will be used to help families of Luther Memorial and LMA in need this Christmas. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please drop this off in the church office or place in the offering plate marked "Kids for Kids". Let's make that Christmas magic happen for families.

## St. Lucia Festival

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Each year we look forward to the Annual St. Lucia Fest which begins our holiday season. Last year we had to forego our annual festival. This year St. Lucia will be celebrated, but just a little differently.

St. Lucia will be held as part of our 10:30am Sunday worship service on December 12. Our children will take part in the service and our traditional songs will be sung. We are looking forward to a wonderful worship service and celebration of St. Lucia.

Safety precautions will be in place for distancing, etc. for your children. We hope that you and your children are excited about taking part in this traditional Swedish celebration.

Our customary reception will not be held as we continue to follow safety guidelines.

## Blue Christmas Service

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Wednesday, December 8  
6:00pm  
Main Church



*"Comfort, comfort my people, says God."*

Christmas can be an exciting time of year. But, for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, dealing with illness or job loss, it is also a difficult time. We invite you to attend our Blue Christmas service to hear Christ's message of love on Wednesday, December 8.

The service will be live streamed on Luther Memorial Church's YouTube Channel; go to YouTube, in the search bar type in "Luther Memorial Church, Erie, PA" and subscribe to the channel. The service will be available on our church website at [www.luthermemorialonline.org](http://www.luthermemorialonline.org) the following day. To watch the service on Luther Memorial Church's website go to the "Resources & Online Worship" tab and then click on the "Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study" tab.

## Thank You

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Thank you to all at Luther Memorial who donated undergarments, clothing and money to The Lily Project. Our totes are once again full and ready for the next group of gift bags to be delivered to AHN St. Vincent. The prayer squares have been an integral part of the gift bags. Even those women who may not share the same faith, or perhaps any faith, appreciate the prayer squares and draw great comfort knowing there are people who care enough to lift them up in their worst time. We continue to support NWPA hospitals; Corry Memorial, Warren General, Meadville Medical, Seneca Regional, and Oil City.

I am proud to say that Luther Memorial ALWAYS steps up. I knew you would.

*Peace, Pat Bellingham*

Dear Members of Luther Memorial Stole Ministry,

Thank you all for the beautiful prayer shawls given to both my husband, Steve, and myself while he was on hospice. They brought us much comfort and peace during a difficult time.

Your prayers and support gave us much strength and though Steve is no longer with us, he will remain in our hearts forever.

*God bless,*

*The Narusewicz family; Chris, Sara, Zach & wife, Jodie*



Dearest "Friends of Luther Memorial",



Roger celebrated an eventful eighty-sixth birthday with Roger and Kathy from Nova Scotia; Bob from Plymouth, Indiana; and Susan, from Houston, Texas. Also, all 50 of the residents of the Woodlands enjoyed exquisitely decorated cupcakes.

Thank you for the beautiful dozens, yes dozens, of stately tall daisies that enhanced his room more than ten days!

*Love, Nancy*

A big thank you to LYO, especially the Boyd and McCall families:

They came to my house Sunday, October 17 and raked up 5 huge bags of leaves. They really are eager beavers and did an excellent job.

It is a really big help to me. I hope the rest of their day was fun and joyous.

*Sincerely, Loretta Deeds*



Dear Jan and the Magic Fingers Knitting Group:



Thank you so much for the beautiful items for our NICU patients and the parents and staff! You are so giving of your time and talent!

*Jeanne Burns, UPMC Hamot NICU*

Dear Friends:

We had the tasty turkey dinner last night . . . it was very good – excellent. Thank you to all the people who put it together and delivered it.

P.S. Milton, our umbrella cockatoo, had a couple of bites. He enjoyed it too.

*Kathy & Bob Weisman*



Dear Friends:



Very thankful to the church for bringing a meal to my folks.

*Katrina (Linda & Phil Carlson's daughter)*

## Women of the ELCA

### Tuesday Circle News

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**Meetings are held at 4:00pm in the church parlor.**

**December:** Tuesday, December 7      **January :** Tuesday, January 4

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3:00pm in the church parlor.

Our Circle is open to all women, and we welcome you to contact Pat Young, President, at 455-7736, or our church office, 454-0106, ext. 221, with any questions.

### Deborah Circle News

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**Meetings are held at 12:00 noon in the church parlor.**

**January :** Tuesday, January 4

For more information on the Deborah Circle, please contact Judy Johnson at 833-4600.



### Christmas Surprise

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At the November 2 meetings the Deborah Circle and Tuesday Circle filled 40 bags for the men and women of Warren State Hospital. These much needed items will make Christmas very special for the many residents. Pat Young, our chief elf, will be delivering these bags on December 4 to Table of Grace Church for delivery to Warren State Hospital.

### Thankofferings

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If you have not yet turned in your Thankoffering, we ask that you please keep these for now. We are considering a collection of same in January or February 2022.

### Pennies for Poverty

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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.

### Blood Pressures

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Blood pressures are offered the third Sunday of each month following the 10:30am service. We welcome you to stop in the library on December 19 and January 16 for your check-up. Get your stress level low and let us help you keep track. We ask that you be fully vaccinated to have your blood pressure checked.

### Were You Wondering?

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Ever wonder about the Chrismons that adorn our trees in the main church and narthex? Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. they help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. They are often used on Christmas trees in churches.

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is traditional that Christian groups can make their own Chrismons with their favorite symbols.





## Fellowship

### Magic Fingers Grace Group

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It's a holly, jolly Christmas when you're knitting mittens, stockings, scarves and prayer shawls. Those cheerful colors of reds and greens make you feel very merry. And we'll keep those knitting needles moving right through January. We're looking forward to seeing you for great conversation, laughter and, of course, our love of yarn. Be sure to join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00 – 11:30am.

Gatherings: December 14 and December 28; January 11 and January 25.

If you have questions on how to knit, we're here to help. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 454-0106, ext. 233 or the church office, ext. 221 with any questions.

### OWLS – Older Wiser Lutherans

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**Wednesday, December 15**  
**11:30am – 1:30pm**  
**Church Parlor**

Break out the egg nog and figgy pudding and get ready for some holiday merriment at our OWLS Christmas party! Come prepared for lots of fun! We'll enjoy a Christmas luncheon (provided) together with some little surprises thrown in.



In lieu of our White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a \$5 contribution which will be used to purchase items for those in need.

Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes or the church office by Wednesday, December 8.



**Valentine's Day**  
**February 14, 2022**  
**12:00 – 2:00pm**

OWLS will take a break in January to recuperate from our Christmas festivities. We plan to be back together for a lovely Valentine's Day luncheon on February 14 at the Bayfront Convention Center in the Grand Ballroom. Add the date to your new 2022 calendars; the event is free. Please keep in mind that Covid numbers may have a bearing on this event. The response to this event has been very favorable in the past, and reservations will be limited. We ask that reservations be to Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or the church office by Friday, January 14 if you would like to attend.

### Winter Activities & Surprises

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We know everyone is feasting on all that delicious Thanksgiving turkey, and the Christmas cookies and treats are calling your name. But once the decorations come down and the toys are unwrapped, we have some great upcoming winter fun activities for you and your family. We don't want to share all the surprises just yet, but a familiar one is BINGO! YES, BINGO WILL BE BACK! And that's not all, we have a few new ideas up our sleeves to get you thru these cold winter months so be sure and check the bulletins.



### December Collection

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Our youth will be collecting new adult men's underwear and long johns through December 19 to be distributed to local shelters. Items may be placed in the box marked "Shelter Collection" located in the parlor hall. Thank you for your kindness.

## Moving Forward

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Can we move forward? Should we yet? How?

No one is 100% sure how or where this SARS-CoV-2 virus started. What we do know is that it has been devastating to so many people. If you're feeling caught in limbo, you're in good company. It's highly unlikely that the U.S., or the world, will be able to completely eliminate the coronavirus that causes Covid-19. But I'm pretty sure that many people also thought that about the polio virus. But it was eradicated when the vaccine was developed and administered to millions of people. Scientists are confident that there will come a day when Covid-19 is no longer a pandemic. As of now there is not a measurement to determine when something is an epidemic or pandemic according to Dr Arnold Monto, a professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan. Covid-19 does remind scientists of most of the respiratory viruses that eventually start behaving as seasonal events, but when this will happen, we don't know. Dr Monto states we have to "wait and see and hold our breath" to unlock what an endemic phase might look like." An endemic phase means that a disease has a constant presence in a population – but does not have an alarming effect on large amounts of people. We have done pretty well with wearing masks, self-distancing, hand washing and vaccines. We all have our own personal opinions about many things and the vaccine is no different. I just hope that if you have questions that you research reliable scientific knowledge and talk with your physician. I also encourage you to ask God in prayer to help you make the best decision for yourself and your loved ones.

So do we move forward? First and foremost we need to depend on our faith in God to bring us out of this pandemic and move us forward. We can't go back to the lives we had before the pandemic. There are still many unknowns – Will there be another wave? Will we bounce back financially? What if we have to quarantine again? Will we ever feel safe? All of this sounds overwhelming and depressing. Author, Suleika Jaouad, and many other cancer survivors, including myself, liken this to a cancer diagnosis. Everything gets turned upside down. Your life is interrupted and your dreams are put on indefinite hold. She also stated that "there is no instruction manual for picking up the pieces, no map with directions on how to move forward." I must disagree with her. Our Holy Bible has many stories of how people came out of very difficult situations successfully. We need to read these stories to regain hope and resiliency to move forward. Suleika also states "The truth is that the ends of things are harder to pinpoint than beginnings and we want to think that there is a neat endpoint. We have to learn to move forward with them and carry what lingers."

Suleika shared three steps that can help you come to terms with what's happened and move forward:

1. Reckon with the impact of what we've all been through;
2. Allow yourself the space to reimagine what your life is going to look like moving forward, because none of us can return to the person we were or to the lives we had pre-pandemic;
3. Identify what we want to carry forward with us from this experience.

I would like to add a fourth step:

4. Prayer. Having our faith life interrupted has been very difficult for us. We are blessed to know that we don't need a phone or computer to get the help we need. God is with us always and is listening to our prayers and cries for help. And we must not forget to thank Him for all of our blessings.

I want to share a prayer from Nicki Koziarz who writes for the Proverbs 31 organization. *God, thank You that we can say "From this point forward, it will be different." Thank You for the strength within us to move our words to a place of blessing no matter what the situation. Help us to get there today. Guide our words. Let what's deep within be challenged so that what flows from us is good. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Despite the many awful things that have happened during this pandemic, I feel that mental health awareness has come to the forefront, and this is so needed in our world today!

I also want to remind you about the Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 8. We have had many changes and losses in the past two years and these may have caused us to feel grief. Please join us for this beautiful uplifting service showing God's love for us all.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Blessings,  
Linda Graffius, RN  
Faith Community Nurse

Resources: Howard, Jacqueline, "What the end of the pandemic could look like", (11/8/21) CNN Health  
Gupta, Dr Sanjay, "What the end of the Covid-19 pandemic could look like, (11/9/21) CNN Health

## Poinsettia Order Form



As we prepare to celebrate during the Christmas season, we also remember friends and loved ones with poinsettias for the chancel. Poinsettias this year will be \$7.00 each for a 6 1/2" poinsettia. **To place an order, please return the completed form, with proper remittance, to the church office by Sunday, December 5.** Thank you.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT POINSETTIAS BE PICKED UP FOLLOWING THE 10:30 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
OR THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THANK YOU.

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) in memory of:

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) in honor of:

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From:

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# Plants Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ WILL HELP WITH DELIVERY TO HOMEBOUND

\_\_\_\_\_ WILL TAKE ORDER      \_\_\_\_\_ DELIVER TO HOMEBOUND

## Pictorial Directory



Gotten your photo taken yet? It's not too late to have your picture taken for our new pictorial directory. You are most welcome to stop in the church office during the week to have your photo taken. Emailing or texting is also a great way to share your smile.

- Pictures will also be taken during the week from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Please stop in our church office and Norma will meet with you to take your picture.
- You are also welcome to email or text pictures. This option may be very helpful for members who may be out of town and our college students. Pictures may be emailed to [nbuerk@luthermemorialchurchonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialchurchonline.org), or texted to 814-450-7162.

## December Birthday Celebrations

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Erich Pirschel 12-01  
 Megan Cunningham 12-01  
 Nathan Helsley 12-01  
 Michael Pirschel 12-02  
 Maryann Fried 12-02  
 Tim Thomas, Jr. 12-03  
 Jack Tell 12-03  
 Rose Lintelman 12-05  
 Ben Morgan 12-06  
 Adam Franks 12-06  
 Xyla Lombardozzi 12-08  
 Linda Melaragno 12-08  
 Lois Fobes 12-09  
 Thomas Coffey 12-09  
 Christine Satur 12-10  
 Kathy Morey 12-12  
 Frank DiCenzo 12-12  
 Sam Laver 12-12



Ely Cooney, 12-12  
 Lupe Eagle 12-13  
 Ben Davis 12-13  
 Donald MacInnes 12-14  
 Joshua Graffius 12-16  
 Annabelle Cooney 12-16  
 Ron Colicchio 12-16  
 Mark Cadden 12-16  
 Natalie Montero 12-16  
 Gina Snider 12-17  
 Brian Franks 12-17  
 Rob Kraut 12-18  
 Jacob O'Brien 12-18  
 Marne Brown 12-18  
 Jordan Sturm 12-19  
 George Kurtich 12-19  
 Jonathan Hagen 12-19  
 Miley Schill 12-20



Cheryl Markowski-Momeyer 12-21  
 Rose-Marie Rose 12-21  
 Christopher Fuhrman 12-24  
 Christine Hickey 12-24  
 Christine Snyder 12-24  
 Ryan Robie 12-24  
 Denise King 12-26  
 Luke Huston 12-28  
 Matt Kinzig 12-28  
 Madilyn Mantsch 12-29  
 Maura Myhoffer 12-29  
 Megan Ross 12-30  
 Dylan Ambrose, 12-30  
 Danielle Graffius 12-30  
 Mindy Boyd 12-30  
 Evan Andrae 12-30

## January Birthday Celebrations

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Amy Kurtic, 1-01  
 David Coffey 1-01  
 Nancy Come 1-02  
 Natalie Bartlett 1-02  
 Madison Chaffee 1-05  
 Jerry Keller 1-06  
 Leo Blor, 1-07  
 Caleb DiCenzo 1-10  
 Ben Gustafson 1-11  
 Anton Partusch 1-11  
 Chloe Meucci 1-11  
 Joanne Dahlstrand 1-11  
 Krista Partusch 1-11  
 Matthew Lasher 1-12  
 Cathy Macgregor 1-12  
 Aiden Montero 1-12

Joan Chalikian 1-12  
 Carol Davidson 1-14  
 Robert Alvaro 1-17  
 Catherine McAdoo 1-17  
 Jack Bartlett 1-17  
 Cheryl Brown 1-18  
 Alan Eagle 1-18  
 Richard O'Leary 1-19  
 Brian Davidson 1-19  
 Tim Dugan 1-20  
 Mary Pheasant 1-20  
 Andres Duran 1-20  
 Tamara Wettekin 1-21  
 Sara Wettekin 1-23  
 Zackary Helsley 1-23  
 Spencer Cadden 1-23



Felix Schill 1-23  
 Fiona Schill 1-23  
 Judy McKibben 1-24  
 Rebecca Brown 1-24  
 Ava Romba 1-24  
 Dave Kinzig 1-25  
 Gabe Fracassi 1-25  
 Barb Walter 1-26  
 Kathy Weisman 1-27  
 Dominic Barbaro 1-27  
 Jan MacInnes 1-27  
 Tammy Hessinger 1-28  
 Chris Andrejewski 1-28  
 Sarah Heintzel 1-29  
 Christopher Young 1-30  
 Nathan Muhanna 1-30



## December & January Birthday Celebrations for our Sunshine Members

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Lois Fobes 12/9  
 1324 S. Shore Drive  
 Apt. 301  
 Erie, PA 16505

Kathy Morey 12/12  
 21 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Apt. 707  
 Erie, PA 16501



Joanne Dahlstrand 1/11  
 1004 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Erie, PA 16502



## November 2021 Council Meeting

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1. **Minutes** of the October council meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. **Inter-Church Ministries** - Karen Adams, director of ICM, gave a presentation on the purpose and role this organization offers in our community. ICM has been reorganizing, including an upgrade to the voucher system. They are struggling with financing to reorganize and build ICM up to what it has been over the past number of years. They appreciate the financing received by Luther Memorial and any additional help is always appreciated.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Parish Manager, Miriam Scheid, reviewed the written report indicating that church finances are in good order. On motion by Vicky Blasco, seconded by Emma Chaffee, it was unanimous the report be approved.
4. **Bethesda Center Christmas Dinner** - We have helped with this traditional dinner in previous years. A full meal is served and volunteers are needed to help set up and serve the dinner. Assistance with the purchase of food is needed. Stan Rose made a motion to help with funding in the amount of \$200; this was seconded by Pat Young. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Christmas Drive-thru** - Luther Memorial and Luther Memorial Academy would like to offer a drive-thru "Christmas Wonderland" in our parking area on Wednesday, December 15. On motion by John Bartlett, second by Emma Chaffee, this was unanimously approved.
6. **Hotel Update** - DRS has begun securing permit approvals from the city. A tentative time frame was reviewed.
7. **Call Committee** - Eight people have been approved by the Executive Board to serve on our Call Committee. On motion by the Executive Board, second by John Bartlett, it was unanimous the following serve:

Rob Benacci	Emma Chaffee	Jonathan Gaber	Eric Hedlund
Tom Klomp	Marilyn Rositer	Carol Schaal	Michael Snider
8. **Nominating Committee** - Les Fobes, John Bartlett and Greg Kern on working on this.
9. **Donation to ICM** - After discussion was held regarding our contribution to ICM, it was decided that our current contribution will remain the same. After the first of the year a Sunday will be designated for congregational giving to ICM.
10. **Nominating Committee** - Les Fobes, John Bartlett and Greg Kern are working on this.
11. **Coffee Hour** - Beginning our weekly Sunday morning coffee hours will be revisited in January.
12. **Presque Isle ProMusica** - Amahl and the Night Visitors, hosted by PIP, will be presented in January. They have inquired if LM would host a reception following. Due to the possibility of an outside group being exposed to Covid, a reception will not be held.
13. **Visits** - Pastor Moran and Pastor Lundwall are visiting Pastor Al Gesler and Pastor Roy Washill regularly.
14. **Live Streaming** - Updates to our streaming system is necessary to move forward without complications. A computer will be built specifically for our church by Earley-Hunt Innovations. On motion by John Bartlett, second by Terry Hokaj, the amount of \$2,000 was approved for this improvement.
15. **Council Meetings** - The next council meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00pm.

## Pastoral Call Committee

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The first meeting of our Call Committee will be held Wednesday, December 1 with Bishop Michael Lozano. The Bishop will guide us through the process of calling a pastor for Luther Memorial Church. Those serving on our Call Committee were approved by church council at our November meeting:

Rob Benacci	Emma Chaffee	Jonathan Gaber	Eric Hedlund
Tom Klomp	Marilyn Rositer	Carol Schaal	Michael Snider





**October 2021 Statistics****ATTENDANCE:**

	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>ReCharge</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
October 3	25	58		52	135
October 10	30	68	31	36	165
October 17	28	55		35	118
October 24	31	78		42	141
October 31	30	114		44	188

**BAPTISMS:** None received.**FUNERALS:** DEMARCO, DOLORES – Date of Death: October 31, 2021 / Date of Funeral: / Pastor Brian Moran**MEMORIALS:** None received**LETTER OF TRANSFER:** COLEMAN, WILLIAM, AMY & EMMA – to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Telford, PA**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None received.**WEDDINGS:** BOWERS, MARGARET and POCHATKO, JACOB – Wedding: October 23, 2021 / Pastor Karen Parsh officiating.

Christmas Hugs!

Take one then pass me on.  
Hurry up before I melt!**November 2021 Statistics****ATTENDANCE:**

	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>ReCharge</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 7	31	76		56	164
November 14	22	70	32	65	189
November 21	26	86		27	139
November 28	25	88		24	137

**BAPTISMS:** MONTROY, NOAH ALEXANDER – Born: December 20, 2017 / Parents: Preeya & Dennis Montroy / Pastor Brian Moran officiating.**MONTROY, ELIJAH JAMES** – Born: July 29, 2013 / Parents: Preeya & Dennis Montroy / Pastor Brian Moran officiating.**MONTROY, EZRA LEE** – Born: July 24, 2020 / Parents: Preeya & Dennis Montroy / Pastor Brian Moran officiating.**FUNERALS:** None recorded.**MEMORIALS:** DEMARCO, DOLORES – FROM:Kathleen & James Meko                      Jan & Skip MacInnes  
Roberta & Michael Palmisano              Jane & Jack Tell**SUNDBERG, WILDA** – FROM:

Cindy Henry

**LETTER OF TRANSFER:** PHEASANT, MARY – to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clearwater, FL.**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None recorded.**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.



## Luther Memorial Academy

### Kids for Kids



*"If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else up." -*

*Booker T. Washington*

No matter the day or season, kindness is always appreciated and you are certain to find it at Luther Memorial Church and Academy. As we continue to face the health challenges before us we know that helping others is necessary and we can be a blessing to them.

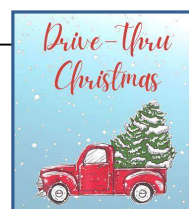
Our "Kids for Kids" program will continue this Christmas season. Small cloth bags will be sent home with each student on **Monday, November 1** in hopes they are returned filled with coins and bills knowing that someone's Christmas will be brighter because of the kindness you have shown. All monies will be used to provide Christmas for those in need in our school and church family. It is requested that the bags be returned to the school office by **Monday, November 22**. Thank you.

### Christmas Wonderland

**Wednesday, December 15**  
**Luther Memorial Parking Lot**  
**6:00pm**

There's something about Christmas lights and decorations that just put a smile on your face. Since we decorate the inside of our church, LMA and Luther Memorial thought it would be fun to get some Christmas on the outside, too. Drive thru our parking lot on December 15 and

see our church sparkle with lights and decorations that will surely put a smile on your face and Santa's, too.



### Christmas Vacation

**Monday, December 20 -**  
**Friday, December 31**

School will resume on  
Monday, January 3, 2022.



### Martin Luther King, Jr.

In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
LMA will be closed:

**Monday, January 17**



### Christmas Fair



We are very excited that our students will be shopping at our annual Christmas Fair this year. All grades will shop during our Christmas Fair on Tuesday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 8. Please send money in an envelope marked "Christmas Fair" with your child. Thank you to our adult volunteers who will be on hand to help with their selections.

Have your children begin their lists of gifts they will give to others this Christmas. We'll throw in some more fun as students in each grade have a chance to win a prize basket as well.

Donations of gift bags would be greatly appreciated and may be dropped off in the school office. Please contact Brooke McCall at 873-8009 with any questions. Thank you.

### Thank You



Dear Sally and members of Luther Memorial Academy Library:

Thank you so much for the book donation given to the library in memory of my husband, Steve Narusewicz. It was such a heart-warming gesture and I truly appreciate your generosity. What a perfect book given in his remembrance as Steve was a dog lover!

Though Steve is no longer with us, he will remain in our hearts forever.

*The Narusewicz family; Chris, Sara, Zach & wife, Jodie*

## DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 3:30pm Prayer Group 5:30pm Call Committee 6:00pm Legos	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Vaccination Clinic
<b>5</b> <i>Advent 2</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Children's Church Pre-K-Kdg.	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Legos	<b>7</b> LMA Christmas Fair 4:00pm W/ELCA	<b>8</b> LMA Christmas Fair 6:00pm Blue Christmas Service	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Handbells 6:00pm Legos 7:00pm Choir	<b>10</b> 7:30pm Club 50 	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Advent 3</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am Children's Church Gr. 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> 4:00pm ReCharge Worship	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Legos	<b>14</b> 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 6:00pm Council	<b>15</b> 11:30am OWLS 3:00pm School Board 5:00pm Bethesda Christmas Dinner offsite 6:30pm Winter Wonderland Drive-thru	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Handbells 6:00pm Legos 7:00pm Choir	<b>17</b> 11:30am LMA Dismissal	<b>18</b> 9:00am Cheer Basket Preparation
<b>19</b> <i>Advent 4</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am LYO 10:30am Christmas Pageant	<b>20</b> LMA Closed	<b>21</b> LMA Closed	<b>22</b> LMA Closed	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir LMA Closed	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:45pm Christmas Concert 6:00pm Worship 10:15pm Christmas Concert 10:30pm Worship LMA & Church Offices Closed	<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas</i> 
<b>26</b> 8:15/10:30am Worship	<b>27</b> LMA & Church Offices Closed	<b>28</b> 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group LMA Closed	<b>29</b> LMA Closed 	<b>30</b> LMA Closed	<b>31</b> LMA Closed Church Offices Closed	

## JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 8:15/10:30am Worship	3 6:00pm Legos	4 12:00pm Deborah Circle 4:00pm W/ELCA	5 	6 6:00pm Handbells 6:00pm Legos 7:00pm Choir	7	8 10:00am Julia House Meeting
9 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am Children's Church/1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 6:00pm Legos	11 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 6:00pm Church Council	12 3:00pm W/ELCA Board Meeting 7:00pm Worship & Music	13 6:00pm Handbells 6:00pm Legos 7:00pm Choir	14	15
16 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am LYO/Conf. Class	17 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr</i> Church Offices & LMA Closed	18	19 3:00pm School Board	20 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	21 	22
23 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am Children's Church/4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	24	25 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	26	27 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	28	29
30 10:30am Worship (8:15 service not held) 11:30am Annual Meeting	31 					