

LUTHER MEMORIAL C H U R C H



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

Volume 46, Issue 10

December 2019/January 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15am Worship ~ Chapel
10:30am Worship ~ Main Church
Children's Church
Nursery

SEPTEMBER – MAY

9:15am Spiritual Growth Class
(Sundays in Fellowship Hall)
12:30pm Confirmation ~ grades 7-9
(2nd, 4th Sundays)

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

MUSIC MINISTRY Page 5

MONTHLY EVENTS

11:45am Luncheons / Cookouts
Blood Pres. Screenings
3rd Sunday each month

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*From Pastor
Coleman*



So I have a “favor” to ask you, but before I ask the “favor” let me explain why I will be asking it. As you open this newsletter letter you are going to see lots and lots of ministry events and activities. I am so thankful that I am a part of a ministry that is helping others, gathering for fellowship events, and trying to make this city and world a better place. But because I have a pretty good “feel” for this ministry, I have been noticing that although we have many, many people connected to this ministry, and we have many things we are doing, our Sunday worship attendance is missing so many people. I feel as if we have about four different congregations on Sunday mornings because of our busy schedules and inconsistent worship patterns. **I believe, and will continue to believe, that the most important thing that we do together is what we do on Sunday mornings, because it is in community that we hear the Lord speak to us, and are fed at his table so we are strengthened to do all the ministry events and activities before us.**

I understand the world in which we live and I do know the demands that are being placed upon us. I know I am unrealistic to believe that all of us can be here all the time, but I do believe it is realistic to ask you to dwell on those things that keep you away from this faith community on a regular basis. I know sometimes we don't feel like it, or sometimes what happens here may not always be to our liking, but as pastor of this congregation, I feel the need from time to time to ask us to think about what we are doing and not doing. I share this with you in love and the desire for this ministry to be everything that it can and should be.

So, I have always wondered what it would look like on a particular Sunday morning if ALL OF US would be here together. I know the church would be filled. So, I am cashing in some “chips of love and care” as my favor is this: **That ALL OF US to come to worship on the Second Sunday in Advent, Sunday December 8** so we may see the fullness of this ministry. I live in hope and I thank you in love.

Christmas is Coming!



HANGING OF THE GREENS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Help us prepare our church for the Christmas season. The main church will be decorated beginning at 11:30am. We need all those extra hands to help decorate so if you've not had the fun of participating in the past, please join us.



HOLIDAY COFFEE HOUR
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Please join us in the parlor following the 8:15 and 10:30am services for fellowship and a festive Coffee Hour, sponsored by our Congregational Life Committee. If you would like to share some of your holiday baking with us, please bring some treats and drop them off in the kitchenette. Thank you.

St. Lucia Festival

St. Lucia Festival
Sunday, December 8, 2019
4:00 p.m.
Luther Memorial Church



For many, many years Lucia has brought faith, hope, and a reason to believe in good things to come. It is thought that during a time when the rulers of the land did not look favorably upon Christianity, a woman named Lucia had devoted her life to God and the poor. She gave her entire dowry to the poor.

The Festival of St. Lucia begins the Christmas season in Swedish custom. A well-lit ship on Lake Vannern approached the shore carrying a woman at the helm dressed in white with a glow around her head. The maiden, widely believed to be Lucia, distributed food and clothing to the needy, thus endearing herself to the Swedish people. Many families today celebrate St. Lucia in their homes.

Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays. We invite you to join us for this annual event.

Youth and young children participate in this traditional Swedish program.

Rehearsals will be held at 11:45am Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 8.

All participants are asked to be at the church by 3:00pm to prepare for the program on December 8.

Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations.

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 11
6:00pm
Main Church

"Comfort, comfort my people, says God."

The Christmas season is joyful for many. Brightly wrapped packages, Christmas trees, parties, carols in the stores, visits from family and friends, and all the delicious goodies.



But there are those who do not look forward to the holidays. These are the people who know that this Christmas will be difficult. Those that are grieving, lonely, have lost a job, are ill – they have no heart for the anticipation and excitement. More than anyone, they need to hear Christ's message of love.

We invite you to gather with us for our Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 11.

Refreshments will be served in the parlor following the service.

Please feel free to speak with Pastor Coleman or Linda Graffius with any questions.

Donations of freshly baked cookies are appreciated for our reception following the service.

These may be dropped off in the church office or parlor kitchen Sunday, December 8-Wednesday, December 11.

If you are able to help us with the reception in any way, please contact Linda Graffius or the church office.

Spreading Smiles

Our Care Ministers visit our many Sunshine members and have developed close relationships with them. We continue to care about our members out of town remembering them through cards. Pastor Coleman, Linda Graffius, Jan MacInnes and our Care Ministers regularly visit those that are homebound. During the holiday season we hope to brighten their days by dropping off cheer baskets and poinsettias. It would be appreciated if you would assist by helping with these special deliveries:

Cheer Baskets will be ready for delivery on Sunday, December 22.

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 cheer baskets.



Donations of freshly baked cookies are needed for our cheer baskets and may be dropped off to the church office the week of December 16. Thank you.



Poinsettias are traditionally delivered the week following Christmas and may be taken from the church following the 10:30pm Christmas Eve service. Please contact Norma in the church office if you would like to help with these deliveries.

Mitten Tree



During the Christmas season our **Mitten Tree** is adorned with beautiful hats, scarves, mittens and gloves which are donated to the Bethany Outreach Center. These warm donations will be distributed to those in need at the Outreach Center. Our Mitten Tree is in need of decorating, and we are hoping you can help.

Blankets may also be placed in the box near the Mitten Tree. These will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center for those in need.

Kids for Kids



*Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the blossoms.
Kind deeds are the fruits.*

The kindness you have shown through our Kids for Kids collection is allowing us to make Christmas very bright for some wonderful families. Our Luther Memorial Youth, Pastor Coleman, Beth Keller and Sarah Prylinski are preparing to do some special shopping very soon. 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". All donations are used to purchase gifts for families of Luther Memorial and LMA in need this Christmas.

Christmas Eve Services

The Nativity of Our Lord Tuesday, December 24, 2019 Main Church

5:30 P.M.	PIANO & ORGAN MUSIC: SYMBOLISM OF THE WINTER ROSE CANTOR, WALT GABER
6:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 P.M.	PIANO & ORGAN MUSIC: SYMBOLISM OF THE WINTER ROSE CANTOR, WALT GABER
10:30 P.M.	CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

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



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 ½" poinsettia. **To place an order, please return the completed form, with proper remittance, to the church office by Sunday, December 8.** Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER POINSETTIAS TO OUR HOME-BOUND.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE CHECK THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THE ORDER FORM.

_____ Plant(s) in memory of:

From: _____

_____ Plant(s) in honor of:

From: _____

Plants Ordered _____ X \$7.00 = _____

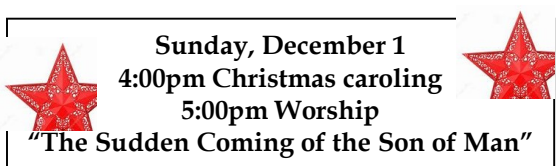
(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

_____ WILL TAKE ORDER

_____ GIVE TO SHUT-INS

_____ WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS

Luther Memorial ReCharge



We invite you to begin the Advent season with us on Sunday, December 1. Our evening will begin at 4:00pm with Christmas caroling and then we'll warm up with a hot chocolate bar and some finger foods. You are welcome to bring some Christmas cookies to share. Our worship service will begin at 5:00pm in our "upper room". Please join us for this very special evening together.

Welcome the new year and worship with us at ReCharge on Sunday, January 12, 2020:



Time:
4:00-5:00pm Dinner & Fellowship
5:00-6:00pm Worship

Music Ministry

“The Winter Rose”

Throughout Advent and Christmas Eve, the Luther Memorial choir will present anthems from a recently-composed cantata named "The Winter Rose" by Joseph M. Martin. The composer offers the following description:



From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It gently reaches across the ages in ancient illuminations and freely spills from the pens and brushes of countless poets and artists. Echoing through our sanctuaries in the melodies and texts of many beloved carols, it brings to life the beautiful visions of biblical prophets and the hope of early Christian pilgrims. Today, the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace both inside the Church and the outside worlds. Her appearance in the garden is a treasured harbinger of the coming spring's abundance. It is in that same spirit that the present work was conceived and written. It is our sincerest prayer that as Christ, the Rose of Sharon, opens before you this Christmas, your spirit will be encouraged by the beauty of God's greatest gift. Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and life... children of the garden.

In addition, a 30-minute concert of piano and organ music featuring settings of carols that include references to the rose will be presented prior to each of the Christmas Eve services.

Presque Isle ProMusica



The **Presque Isle ProMusica** will present *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Sunday, January 5 at 2:00pm. This operetta by Gian Carlo Menotti is a Christmas favorite telling the story of a young disabled boy and his mother as they host the magi traveling to visit the newborn child. Originally designed for broadcast on live television, it is about one hour in length and will be enjoyed by all ages. There is no admission charge, but donations will be gladly accepted.



Member Outreach Ministry (MOM) – From Chairperson Don Tatar

As chair of the St Matthew's Endowment Committee of Luther Memorial Church, I would like to explain a new category that we have added to our distribution of funds. We are calling it MOM (Member Outreach Ministry). We are asking members of the LMC community to seek out those in need who might not know help is available or may be reluctant to ask for or accept help. Members can request funds in any amount up to \$500 to satisfy an immediate need. The Endowment Committee will be given sole commitment authority by a unanimous vote and direct the Church Council Treasurer to distribute the required funds. If you would like to submit a request you can contact me, Jean McMillin, Pastor Coleman or any of the committee members – Casey Hedlund, Don Tatar, Gina Sims and John Vali. There are Financial Support Request Forms available in the church office and on the church webpage; click on "Resources" and select "Resources and Forms". The form can be completed and forwarded to the church office or to the email address MOM@luthermemorialonline.org. We want to empower the LMC family to identify and offer help to someone who may be struggling or dealing with situations where a little outside help can make a difference.

Did You Know....



- that the program called ELCA Good Gifts is a great way to give to others at Christmas by giving to those in need. The ELCA Good Gifts program grows the church, fights hunger and transforms lives. For more information about ELCA Good Gifts go to www.elca.org/goodgifts.
- that for Thrivent Members to not forget about applying for Thrivent Action Teams and directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to your determined non for profit. Luther Memorial Academy and Church will appreciate your directed giving! Check out the Thrivent webpage, www.thrivent.com, for more information on how to apply and donate.

Christian Education

Children's Christmas Pageant



Sometimes we forget the true meaning of Christmas with all the shopping, baking, the trip to see Santa and excitement. At the **10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 15** our children will share the meaning of that very special day; Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the savior of mankind. Please join us for a very special service.

Confirmation



Class Time: Saturday nights from 6:00-8:30pm
Class Location: Luther Memorial Church

We continue to partner with the youth and pastors of the Erie Lutheran Parish by having one confirmation program, which will build good relationships for


Confirmation Camp at Lutherlyn and the National Youth Gathering in 2021. Luther Memorial's confirmation program is for 7th, 8th and 9th graders.

Schedule of Confirmation Classes

12/14/2019 Class, Food, Fun, and Fellowship

Adult Spiritual Growth

Adult Spiritual Growth class is held each Sunday at 9:15am in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Pastor Coleman appreciates all those who have been attending these classes and is thankful for so many interested in deepening their spiritual growth.

	Sunday	Topic	Teacher
	12/1/2019	Lessons of Advent	Pastor Coleman
	12/8/2019	No Class-Fellowship Hall set up for St. Lucia Festival	
	12/15/2019	Lessons of Advent	Pastor Coleman
	12/22/2019	No Class-Christmas Break	
	12/29/2019	No Class-Christmas Break	
	1/5/2020	No Class-New Year Break	
	1/12/2020	Class-Topic and Presenter to be Determined	
	1/19/2020	Class-Topic and Presenter to be Determined	
	1/26/2020	No Class-Annual Meeting Day	

Super Wednesday

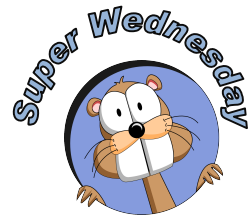


Feel Super on December 4 - it's Super Wednesday. Join us at 5:30pm for a great meal, followed by faith conversations and prayer. Kids will have time together with Sarah Prylinski and Beth Keller. This is a relaxed and multi-generational event and exists to more deeply form community. You need to eat anyway, so why not step out of your comfort zones and schedules and give it a try! Add our Super Wednesday dates to your calendars:

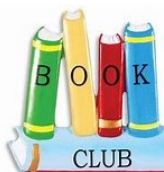
February 5, 2020, (Season of Lent: March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25 and April 1, 2020)

The schedule includes the following:

5:30 to 6:15pm Meal
 6:15 to 7:15pm Devotional Time
 7:15 to 8:15pm Committee Meetings



Pastor's Book Club



Our next book club gathering will be on **Monday, December 9** at 6:00pm in our church parlor. In preparation for our next gathering, finish reading "The Religious Beliefs of America's Founders: Reason, Revelation, and Revolution" by Gregg L. Frazer, as this will be our discussion for the evening. Our next book will be "Losing Moses on the Freeway: The Ten Commandments in America" by Chris Hedges. If you are interested in being more active in the ministry of Luther Memorial Church and meeting new people, please join us. We meet once every five weeks for great conversation and fellowship.

Baptism Celebration

Sunday, January 12, 2020



The day of your baptism is very special and should be celebrated. We invite all those who were baptized at Luther Memorial in 2019, along with their families, to a Baptism Celebration during our 10:30 worship service on Sunday, January 12.

New Member Classes



Luther Memorial has scheduled these classes for the purpose of creating opportunities to invite those people God places into your lives into the fellowship of this ministry. Authentic evangelism happens when each disciple invites and welcomes others to hear about God's love and forgiveness. It is as simple as that. This is a ministry growth strategy! You are an evangelist! You are on the evangelism committee!

New Member Information Classes

11:45am ~ Chapel

February 16, 2020

May 3, 2020

August 30, 2020

November 22, 2020

New Members Received

10:30am Worship ~ Sanctuary

March 1, 2020

May 17, 2020

September 13, 2020

December 6, 2020

Bethesda Christmas Dinner



This year is the 21st year that St. Matthew's began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need, and Luther Memorial is now sharing in that Christmas spirit. A family Christmas dinner will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18th and Walnut Street.

Please volunteer to help by signing the sheet on the table under the video screen or contact the church office. Cookies are also needed for dessert, and you may indicate on the sign-up sheet if you would like to donate cookies. Approximately 120 people attend this dinner.

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

Women of the ELCA



If you are a woman, if you are a Lutheran, you ARE a Woman of the ELCA. There is a place for you in this community of women, women that have been created in the image of God! There are ways for you get connected. First, contact Luther Memorial member Pat Bellingham who is the President of the Northwest PA Synod's Women of the ELCA to see how you can get involved in this very active ministry, and second find out more information at www.womenoftheelca.org.

Christmas Extravaganza

One of the highlights of the year for our youth is the Christmas Extravaganza! Youth in grades 7-12 will spend the evening on Friday, December 6 making Christmas extra-special for families in need. We look forward to sharing the joy of the Christmas season as we help others.



Friday, December 6 5:30pm – 10:00pm

5:30 – 6:30pm	Registration at Ci-Ci's Restaurant (Harborcreek on Buffalo Road) Cost: \$5 per person
7:00 – 8:00pm	Shopping at WalMart (Harborcreek on Buffalo Road)
9:00 – 10:00pm	Return to Luther Memorial for Gift Wrapping and Ice Cream
10:00pm	Parents Pick Up Youth

Add it to your Christmas schedule and RSVP to Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Prylinski or the church office by Wednesday, December 4.

Christmas Bingo Extravaganza

Sunday, December 15
Doors Open: 12:30pm
Bingo: 1:00-4:00pm
Luther Memorial Fellowship Hall
Tickets: \$20

An afternoon sure to get your bells a-jingling!

- Prizes valued at \$50
- 8 prize games; 2 cash games
- Pull tabs & games of chance
- Gift Wrap Chinese Auction
- Christmas Cookie Bake Sale & Craft Table

And you won't go hungry; delicious hot ham & cheese sandwiches will be available for purchase. So much fun it will even put a smile on Scrooge's face! Proceeds will benefit Luther Memorial youth programming.

Christmas Ham Sale

Be sure to order a delicious Smith ham to make your Christmas meal complete. Proceeds benefit our youth. Order forms are located at the hospitality tables or order from any youth member.



Orders taken through Sunday, December 8
Ham Delivery: Sunday, December 15

	<u>Approximate Size</u>	<u>Price Per Pound</u>
Whole semi-boneless	13 lbs.	\$4.20
Half semi-boneless	7.5 lbs.	\$4.40
Whole Gourmet boneless	6.5 lbs.	\$4.90
Half Gourmet boneless	4 lbs.	\$5.00

Pampered Chef



Everything you need to cook, bake and dice like a professional can be found at Pampered Chef. See the latest in great kitchen items by attending a Pampered Chef Fundraiser to benefit Luther Memorial Academy on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00am in the church parlor. Order forms are available in the church and school office and may also be placed by going online to www.pamperedchef.com/party/luthermemorial. All orders received by December 7 will be delivered in time for Christmas.

Please RSVP to attend the December 7 party to Roberta Lobaugh at 459-6064 or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221.

Women of the ELCA

Tuesday Evening Circle News



Meetings will be held at 4:00pm in the church parlor.

December Meeting: Tuesday, December 3 **January :** Tuesday, January 7

Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2020 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.



At the November 5 meeting twenty (20) bags were filled for the men residents of Warren State Hospital. An additional thirteen (13) bags were filled by the Deborah Circle for the residents. Thank you to everyone who donated items for these stockings to make Christmas a little more special.

Deborah Circle

Join us for our monthly gathering on Tuesday, November 5 at 1:00pm. For more information, contact Judy Johnson at 833-4600.



Thank You

The Women of the ELCA would like to thank everyone for their recent orders of RADA items. We are sure you will be pleased with the high quality of these products.

Pennies for Poverty



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



Magic Fingers Grace Group



Do you have some Christmas gifts to finish up? Maybe a prayer shawl for someone in need? Share this special time of year with us and bring those knitting and crocheting projects with you. Join us at 10:00am in the parlor the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month for a joyous good time. **We'll see you December 10.** We will not meet on December 24.

Keep the knitting going in January; we'll need the warmth then for sure! The snow and sleet won't keep us apart so join us on January 14 and January 28.

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

Wednesday, December 18
11:30am
Church Parlor

Make merry with us at our annual Christmas luncheon on December 18. We promise a very festive afternoon; there could be eggnog and even figgy pudding. The main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



In lieu of a gift exchange a \$5 contribution will be accepted and a gift from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog will be given from the OWLS Group of Luther Memorial Church. Join us for a jolly good time; please RSVP to Jan MacInnes or the church office by Friday, December 13.

“Baby, It’s Cold Outside”

Remember those hot days of last summer? I wrote about heatstroke and mentioned we would be experiencing the cold days of winter soon enough. Well, it’s here! So I would like you to consider these tips to promote safety and good health during the cold Erie winters.



In Your Home

- Install a door sweep under your front door to keep out the cold draft.
- Don’t use your oven for heat. They can give off harmful carbon monoxide and cause accidental burns or fires.
- Install or make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working condition. Some fire departments and the Red Cross offer free detectors.
- If you use a space heater, don’t use an extension cord to power it and keep it away from combustible material. If you are having difficulty paying your heating bills, there is help through LIHEAP. I have those forms to obtain help.
- Keep your bedroom door closed at night. “Close before you doze”.

In Your Car

- Buy or create a first aid and emergency kit to include first aid supplies, hand warmers, flares, flashlight, blankets, water and snacks. This is especially important if you are traveling.
- Check your tire pressure. It changes between cold and hot weather.
- Keep a minimum half tank of gas to prevent the fuel line from freezing.
- Clear the snow and ice from your windows before driving.

Personal

With colder weather and shorter days, follow these tips to stay active and healthy through the winter months.

- Be sure to get your flu shot.
- Emphasize hand washing among friends and family. If you have a cold please refrain from shaking hands when passing the peace and even if you are healthy use a hand sanitizer after doing this.
- Plan an exercise routine daily or weekly. Our church is available during office hours to walk in the sanctuary. Twenty laps around the sanctuary equals one mile. (Please let Norma know if you are there walking.)
- Some people experience Seasonal Affect Disorder during the dark winter months. Unfortunately we all can’t go south! Talk to your healthcare provider if you think you have this. They may recommend special lights or a Vitamin D supplement.
- A diet rich in fruits and vegetables is especially important to stay healthy during the winter months.

If you do get sick and are unable to get groceries or need a ride to the doctor, please let us know so we can help you. And, if you are in the hospital please call the church office. The hospitals will not tell us if members of our congregation are in the hospital.

This article will be the last one till next February so I want to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings,

Linda Graffius, RN

Faith Community Nurse

Resources: Church Health Reader: Cold Weather Precautions; Fall 2018, Vol 8, Number 4

Monastery of the Heart



Monastery of the Heart welcomes you to join us for this spiritual growth group. We gather in the parlor on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00am.

We have been studying prayer using the book *“The Breath of the Soul, Reflections on Prayer”* by Joan Chittister, as our guide. We will complete this on Tuesday, December 17. On Tuesday, January 21 we will begin *“Dear Joan Chittister – Conversations with Women in the Church.”*

Please join us for any of the gatherings. For further information contact Linda Graffius at 454-0106, ext. 229.

Tasty Treats

Fuel for the Super Bowl

Don't miss a minute of the big game. Stock up on all the game food from Stanganelli's. It's easy; just place your order with our youth!

Pepperoni Balls (14 count) - \$14

Plain / Cheese & Pepperoni / Hot Cheese & Pepperoni
Ham & Cheese

Pizzas / cheese & pepperoni (14") - \$8.50



Wings (2.5 lbs.) - \$14.25

Hot, Butter & Garlic

10" Subs - \$6.50

Combo / Meatball / Sausage & Peppers

Orders will be accepted through Sunday, January 20.

Items may be picked up at the church on Sunday morning, February 2, from 8:30am -12:00pm.

Soup & Salad Luncheon

**Sunday, January 19
11:30am
Fellowship Hall**



If your teeth are chattering, we can solve that with a nice hot bowl of homemade soup. Head to our fellowship hall and warm up.

All youth are asked to attend and lend a helping hand with set-up and clean-up.

Stay healthy - blood pressure screenings will also be offered by our parish nurses.



Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, January 26, 2020
Joint Worship Service at 10:30am

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WILL BE IN SESSION

ANNUAL MEETING - 11:30AM
CHILI LUNCHEON - FREE (RSVP, PLEASE)

All members of Luther Memorial Church are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26 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 2019 reports, election of Church Council members, and a review of the proposed 2020 budget. Following the meeting, a chili luncheon, served by our youth, will be available. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the meal. Please join us to review the year and look ahead and plan for the ministry year of 2020!

To make your meal complete, the youth will be having a **BAKE SALE**.
Treat yourself and pick up some home-made goodies.



Youth are needed!

We have a lot to do on Sunday, January 26.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in fellowship hall following the 10:30 worship service.

- ❖ **CHILI LUNCHEON** will be served following the meeting; all youth are asked to help with preparation, serving and clean-up.
- ❖ **BAKE SALE:** All youth are asked to please bring home-made baked goods for the sale which will be held during the luncheon. Time to get creative in the kitchen.



Supporting our Veterans

Contributions are being gathered for care packages which will be donated to the VA Hospital in Erie for Christmas. Our Christmas gifts will be delivered to the Men's Fifth Floor Unit. **Donations may be dropped off through Sunday, December 8.** Please contact Jan MacInnes, 833-0476, or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221, with any questions.

NEW CLOTHING FOR MEN:

- Short Sleeve Colored Tees: all sizes (NO white tees)
- Elastic Waistband Sweatpants / no draw string: all sizes
- Flannel Lounge Pants: size Medium to XXXL
- Colored Crew Sweatshirts: size Medium to XXXL (NO white ones), XXXL (4 needed)
- Hoodies with Zip Front XL (4 needed), XXL (5 needed)
- Gloves (5 pair needed)
- Hats (5 pair needed)

COMFORT ITEMS/PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR MEN:

- Brut, English Leather, Old Spice Aftershave

- Gillette razors or other name brand disposable razors; NOT generic
- Travel Size: Body wash/Body Lotion, Deodorant (non-aerosol), Shampoo, Shaving cream
- AXE Deodorant & Body wash
- Sea Bond (2 needed)
- Toothbrushes - Soft to Medium bristles
- Hairbrushes
- Nail Clippers, Emery Boards
- Hand Sanitizer Lotion
- Small Mouthwash

OTHER ITEMS:

- Relaxation CD's: Piano, nature; soothing music
- Sketch Pads and Pens

- Adult Coloring Books
- Hangers

FOOD ITEMS (Please be sure all food items are NOT expired):

- Peanut Butter Crackers (small packs)
- Ho-Ho's, Twinkies/chocolate
- Hersey chocolate bars (small bars)
- Hot cocoa packs/regular & sugar free

GIFT CARDS :

- Wal-Mart, Visa Cards, McDonalds, Dollar Tree (to pick up personal items or snacks)
- Cracker Barrel/they go monthly

Thank you to everyone for their donations for the Veterans in our local VA Medical Center. It is so good that we can bring a little sunshine and joy into their lives and let them know we care.



Winter Youth Retreat



Friday, January 24 - Sunday, January 26, 2020
Camp Lutherlyn

Registration: Friday, January 24
7:00-8:00pm
Event Ends: Sunday, January 26 at 1:00pm
Cost: \$120 includes 2 nights, 5 meals, and all program costs
Grades 4 - 12 Campers will be divided by age groups for the weekend



Registration due to Beth Keller by Sunday, January 5, 2020

GAGA ball in the snow, Bible study, the bouldering room, songs, worship, friends, indoor and outdoor games, lots of your summer camp favorites, and fun in the wonderful winter weather!

Trees of Manchester

Thursday, December 12
1:00-3:00pm
Manchester Commons
6351 West Lake Road




Local health providers are decking the halls and decorating trees around the Manchester campus. Each tree is themed around a favorite Christmas movie. Get in the holiday spirit and see if your favorite movie has made it to one of their trees; perhaps the Grinch, Elf or the Christmas Story. The event is free and open to the public.

December Birthday Celebrations



Megan Cunningham	12/1	Sam Laver	12/12	Miley Schill	12/20
Nathan Helsley	12/1	Kathy Morey	12/12	Cheryl Markowski-Momeyer	12/21
Erich Pirschel	12/1	Ben Davis	12/13	Rose-Marie Rose	12/21
Maryann Fried	12/2	Lupe Eagle	12/13	Giovanna DePaul	12/23
Michael Pirschel	12/2	John McKibben	12/13	Christopher Fuhrman	12/24
Jack Tell	12/3	Skip MacInnes	12/14	Christine Hickey	12/24
Timothy Thomas, Jr.	12/3	Howard McConnell	12/14	Ryan Robie	12/24
Rose Lintelman	12/5	Mark Cadden	12/16	Christine Snyder	12/24
Adam Franks	12/6	Ron Colicchio	12/16	Denise King	12/26
Ben Morgan	12/6	Annabelle Cooney	12/16	Susan McConnell	12/26
Sabashton DePaul	12/8	Josh Graffius	12/16	Luke Huston	12/28
Xyla Lombardozzi	12/8	Natalie Montero	12/16	Matthew Kinzig	12/28
Linda Melaragno	12/8	Brian Franks	12/17	Madilyn Mantsch	12/29
Thomas Coffey	12/9	Gina Sims	12/17	Maura Myhoffer	12/29
Laura Dascanio	12/9	Robert Kraut	12/18	Dylan Ambrose	12/30
Lois Fobes	12/9	Jacob O'Brien	12/18	Evan Andrae	12/30
Christine Satur	12/10	Jonathan Hagen	12/19	Mindy Boyd	12/30
Ely Cooney	12/12	George Kurtich	12/19	Danielle Graffius	12/30
Frank DiCenzo	12/12	Jordan Sturm	12/19	Megan Ross	12/30

January Birthday Celebrations



David Coffey	1/1	Aiden Montero	1/12	Fiona Schill	1/23
Anne Daniel	1/1	Carol Davidson	1/14	Sara Wettekin	1/23
Amy Kurtich	1/1	Robert Alvaro	1/17	Rebecca Brown	1/24
Natalie Bartlett	1/2	Jack Bartlett	1/17	Judith McKibben	1/24
Nancy Come	1/2	Catherine McAdoo	1/17	Ava Romba	1/24
Madison Chaffee	1/5	Cheryl Brown	1/18	Gabriel Fracassi	1/25
Jerry Keller	1/6	Alan Eagle	1/18	David Kinzig	1/25
Leo Blore	1/7	Brian Davidson	1/19	Barb Walter	1/26
Caleb DiCenzo	1/10	Richard O'Leary	1/19	Dominic Barbaro	1/27
Joanne Dahlstrand	1/11	Tim Dugan	1/20	Jan MacInnes	1/27
Benjamin Gustafson	1/11	Andres Duran	1/20	Kathy Weisman	1/27
Chloe Meucci	1/11	Mary Pheasant	1/20	Chris Andrejewski	1/28
Anton Partusch, III	1/11	Tamara Wettekin	1/21	Tammy Hessinger	1/28
Krista Partusch	1/11	Stacey Batkiewicz	1/22	Steve Narusewicz	1/28
Joan Chalikian	1/12	Spencer Cadden	1/23	Sarah Heintzel	1/29
Matthew Lasher	1/12	Zack Helsley	1/23	Nathan Muhanna	1/30
Cathy Macgregor	1/12	Felix Schill	1/23	Christopher Young	1/30

December & January "Sunshine" Birthday Celebrations

LAURA DASCANIO 12/9
6351 W. Lake Road, Rm. 140
Erie, PA 16505

KATHY MOREY 12/12
21 West 9th Street, Apt. 707
Erie, PA 16501



ANNE DANIEL 1/1
1132 Grant Avenue
Erie, PA 16505



November Council Minutes

1. **Minutes** of the October 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Greg Kern reviewed the details of his written report, indicating that church finances are in acceptable condition. On motion the report was unanimously accepted.
3. **Communications** - Thank you notes were received from Inter-Church Ministries for recent contributions; Sandra Brindle for flowers delivered; and Harmony Grove Lutheran Church for the contribution of pew cushions from St. Matthew's.
4. **160th Anniversary** - This anniversary will occur for Luther Memorial Church in 2021. Discussion will be held at future meetings.
5. **Visioning for Luther Memorial Church** - Pastor Coleman asked council to review the task list and volunteer to get some task(s) moving forward.
6. **St. Matthew's Organ Proposal** - Walt and the purchasers will continue further testing of necessary organ repairs.
7. **Preparedness Response Committee** - Members of the committee did a walk thru of the church to identify any items needing attention. LMA has developed a disaster plan.
8. **Nominating Committee** - Three candidates are in place for three open positions.
9. **Hanging of the Greens** - Scheduled for December 1, Advent 1.
10. **Contribution** - A contribution will be made in memory of Pastor Walter who died November 11, 2019.

November 2019 Statistics



ATTENDANCE:

	<u>8:15 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>4:00 P.M. RECHARGE</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
November 3	57	138	28	12	235
November 10	45	103			
November 17	37	142		17	196
November 24	45	161		13	219

SPECIAL SERVICES:

November 10 (Bach Cantata Vespers)	121	121
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BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: WALTER, RALPH -
FROM: Jane & John Tell

HONORARIUM: MACGREGOR, DON & CATHY -
FROM: Diane & Bob Banks

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: None recorded.



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

Martha & Tom Klomp on the death of Sally Jones, their daughter-in-law's mother

Ed Hokaj on the death of his brother, Tom

Priscilla Walter, wife; Helen Collins, Dolores DeMarco and Ross Walter, siblings;
on the death of Rev. Ralph Walter



Luther Memorial Academy

Bounty for Bethany



A pizza lunch in January could be coming to your classroom! The student council is collecting non-perishable food items and personal care items for the Bethany Outreach Center Food Pantry for the holiday season. The collection will continue through Monday, December 16. All items brought in will be weighed and recorded on a graph on the student council board outside the school office. The class with the most weight will be treated to a pizza lunch in January.

Let's put the pounds on this Christmas season!

Kids for Kids



*Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the blossoms.
Kind deeds are the fruits.*

Every day at LMA we see kindness being shown by our students. And the kindness is done eagerly and happily. Every act of kindness is appreciated. There are those among us in our school and at Luther Memorial Church that are in need, and we hope to make their Christmas brighter.

Small cloth bags were sent home with each student on Monday, November 4 in hopes they return 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. All bags were to be returned to the school office by **Monday, November 25**. The Youth Group will use this money to do shopping for our wonderful families on Friday, December 6.

Christmas Fair Preparations



Shopping at our annual Christmas Fair is almost here and our students are busy making their lists as they purchase special gifts for family and friends. All grades will shop during our Christmas Fair on Thursday, December 5 and Friday, December 6. Please send money in an envelope marked "Christmas Fair" with your child. Thank you to our adult "elf" volunteers who will be on hand to help with their selections.

There's added excitement 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 Tracy Heutsche at 392-4608 or Brooke McCall at 873-8009 with any questions. Thank you.

Book Fair

When it's time to relax and not be on the go, curl up with a favorite book. You're sure to find the perfect one at the Book Fair. All classes will shop at the Book Fair on **Friday, December 13**. Families are also invited to shop before and after the Christmas Concert on Monday, December 16 and maybe pick up a present for under the tree.



Thank you to Mrs. Anita Bellotti (Gabriella & Isabella, grade 6; Dominic, grade 8) for chairing this event.

Festival of Trees



The LMA Student Council and LMA classes are decorating and displaying several Christmas trees for the holiday season. If you get a chance, take a look at our mini "Festival of the Trees" in the areas just outside the Parlor. We hope this can become a Christmas tradition for the school.

Christmas Program

Monday, December 16

7:00pm
Main Church

Celebrate with us ~
"Outstanding in Their Field"

Directed by Dawn Weborg.
Art produced by Amy Gilewicz
and LMA students.



Christmas Vacation

Friday, December 20

11:30am – Dismissal
NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

School will resume on
Monday, January 6, 2020.

Caroling



Grade 2 students will be accompanied by Jan MacInnes as they carol at the Erie VA Hospital on Thursday, December 19.

They will be sharing the wonderful gift of Christmas music and joy with the residents of the VA.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



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

Monday, January 20

Student Council



During November, the Student Council sponsored several events. In recognition of World Kindness Day on November 13, they sold candy canes to be delivered to friends by "Buddy the Elf" on December 10. From November 11 to December 16, the Student Council coordinated a "Bounty for Bethany" non-perishable food drive. Classes competed to see who could collect the most pounds of food. The Student Council also arranged a "Bagels for Buddies" event on November 19.

This event allowed students to share a bagel with family members before school. Busy, busy, busy!

Valerio's Coupons



Get your Valerio's coupons and support our LMA Sports Programs. Quick easy dinners for the rushed holiday season ahead. And these will make great gifts and stocking stuffers. Running behind for your holiday party preparation; just pull out your coupon and let Valerio's plan it.

- Coupons can be picked up in the school office Monday-Friday; 8:00am – 3:30pm.
- Coupons are valid through October 31, **2020!**

Coupon orders may be sent to the school office and Mrs. Fried will send the coupons home with your child that day. Please detach the order slip below and put in a sealed envelope marked 'VALERIO'S' with full payment.

VALERIO'S COUPON ORDER

Student Name _____ Grade _____

of sub coupons _____ x \$6.00 = \$ _____

of pizza coupons _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

\$10 for 1 large 1 topping pizza
\$6 for a 12 inch regular sub

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth Class 9:15/11:30am Holiday Coffee Hr. Hanging of the Greens 11:45am St. Lucia Reh. 4:00pm ReCharge	2 5:00pm Prayer Group 	3 4:00pm W/ELCA 5:30pm Endowment Cmt. 6:00pm LCBA 7:00pm ELP Meeting	4 Christmas Fair Setup 5:30pm Super Wednesday 5:30pm Legos 6:45pm PIAA General Meeting	5 LMA Christmas Fair 5:30pm Legos 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	6 LMA Christmas Fair 5:30pm Youth Shopping 5:3pm Legos	7 8:00am St. Lucia Setup 10:00am Pampered Chef Party 
8 <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> 8:15/10:30 Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth Class 4:00pm St. Lucia Fest & Reception	9 6:00pm PTL Meeting 6:00pm Pastor's Book Club	10 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Gr. 5:45 Preparedness & Response Cmt. 7:00pm Council	11 6:00pm Blue Christmas Service & Reception 	12 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	13 6:30pm Club 50	14 Set up for Bingo 6:00pm Conf. Class
15 <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship/ Children's Christmas Pageant 1:00pm Bingo	16 7:00pm LMA Christmas Program 	17 11:00am Monastery of the Heart	18 11:00am OWLS 6:00pm Bethesda Family Christmas Dinner	19 3:00pm School Bd. 6:00pm Teen Night 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	20 11:30am LMA Dismissal	21 2:00pm Piano Recital
22 <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth Class Cheer Basket Delivery	23 LMA closed for vacation through January 3	24 Church offices closed 5:30pm Piano & Organ Recital 6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00pm Piano & Organ Recital 10:30am Christmas Eve Worship	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> Church offices closed 	26 Church offices closed	27 Church offices closed	28
29 8:15/10:30am Worship	30	31 Church offices closed				

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church offices & LMA closed 	2	3 6:00pm Presque Isle ProMusica rehearsal	4 5:00pm Presque Isle ProMusica rehearsal
5 8:15/10:30am Worship 12:00pm Rehearsal for Amahl 2:00pm Amahl Presentation	6 LMA classes resume	7 4:00pm W/ELCA	8	9 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	10	11 
12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth Class 11:30am Reception 4:00pm ReCharge	13 	14 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Gr. 5:45pm Preparedness & Response Cmt. 7:00pm Council	15 3:00pm W/ELCA Board Meeting	16 10:00am Kids on the Block 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	17	18
19 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth Class 11:30am Soup & Salad 11:30am Congregational Life Cmt. 12:30pm Youth	20 Church offices & LMA closed	21 11:00am Monastery of the Heart	22	23 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	24 	25
26 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Meeting & Luncheon 8:15am service is not held	27	28 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Gr.	29 	30 12:00p School Board 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	31	