

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 51, Issue 1

December 2023 / January 2024

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

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STAFF

Pastor ~ Jay C. Mitchell
jmitchell@luthermemorialonline.org

Cantor ~ Walt Gaber
waltgaber@gmail.com

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

Coordinator of Care Ministry/Visitation
and Parish Nursing ~ Linda Graffius, RN
lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org

Care Ministry ~ Jan MacInnes
jmacinnes@luthermemorialonline.org

Parish Manager ~ Miriam Scheid
mscheid@luthermemorialonline.org

Secretary ~ Norma Buerk
nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org

Luther Memorial Academy:
Administrator ~ Michelle Thom
mthom.lma@gmail.com

Secretary ~ Amanda Fried
afried@luthermemorialonline.org

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



Dear Luther Memorial,

Well here we are again. We are entering another Church Year together as we enter into the season of Advent. And there is lots to be said about the details of liturgy and scripture and ecclesiastical history when it comes to Church Years. But, perhaps, we should focus in on just one part of what we are entering into again.

As we come to another Advent we begin our preparations for Jesus' coming among us—both as the Babe of Bethlehem and as the Savior of Creation. But as this edition of the newsletter spans into January we must also consider his birth, his childhood, the beginning of his ministry on earth. We must, then, consider Jesus' Incarnation.

That is what these weeks that lie before us hold: the mystery of God's Incarnation in Jesus. We have the opportunity to again contemplate what it means that God loves us so much that in Jesus God put on flesh and joined us here. Certainly we continue to proclaim the humanity of Jesus, but I wonder if we consider just what Incarnation means for each of us.

In very basic terms, Incarnation means for us that God speaks to us, relates to us, come to us in ways that we can understand. The expansive mystery of God is entirely unknowable this side of The Day of the Lord. But in mundane, every day, human things God is able to draw us into the very holiness that is God. In water and wine and wheat and each other, we experience God every week. In touch and sight and sound and taste we are able to experience God for us, God among us, God loving us on the way.

And we get to tell that story again as we enter into this year ahead. I am so excited and honored to be on the journey with you. May the days of anticipation and celebration that lie ahead be filled with every rich blessing of God for you.

See you in church!

Pastor Jay

Sharing Smiles



To see someone's face light up when you stop to visit is wonderful. This Christmas we have friends at Luther Memorial who would truly enjoy a visit. Please consider taking some time to share a joyful conversation with our friends who may be unable to attend church and drop off a little something special for Christmas. Throughout the year we keep in touch with phone calls and cards, provide rides to doctor appointments and meals when needed. Our friendships are important to all of us. 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.

**** Baskets will be assembled on Saturday, December 16 at 9:30am.**

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.

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 15. Thank you!**

**** Holiday Baskets will be ready for delivery on Sunday, December 17.**

Mitten Tree



We're decking the halls at Luther Memorial, now it's time to "deck out" our Mitten Tree. We welcome you to place mittens, gloves, hats and scarves on our Mitten Tree and these items will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center. Your donations will keep many people warm during the cold winter months ahead.

Donations may be placed on the Mitten Tree or dropped off in the church office.

Blankets are also welcomed items that are appreciated. Thank you.

St. Lucia Festival



**Sunday, December 10
4:00pm
Main Church**

Santa Lucia's Day is celebrated on December 13 in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. It commemorates the life of Santa Lucia. It's the beginning of the Christmas season in those countries and is a celebration of light - at the time of year when the world is darker.

The tradition on Santa Lucia Day is for the oldest girl in the family to dress in a white robe with a red sash and wear a crown of candles and lingonberry leaves (lingonberries are popular berries in Sweden). Her attendants dress in white with silver crowns. Stjärngossar, Star Boy, helps light the way with his pointed hat and wand. On the morning of Santa Lucia, the children in the family will often wake their parents with a breakfast of Lussekatter (a special St. Lucia bun made with saffron), ginger cookies, coffee and glögg (hot spiced wine).

We are looking forward to our youth and young children participating in this traditional Swedish program:

Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm at Luther Memorial Church.

All participants are asked to be at the church by 3:00pm to prepare for the program on December 10.

The final rehearsal will be held December 3 at 11:45am.

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

Please contact any Svea member or Lynnette Gustafson at 814-464-3827, Cheryl Brown at 814-897-8118 or Pat Bellingham at 814-528-5675 with any questions.

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 13
6:00pm
Main Church



"The joy of a blue Christmas lies in the memories we hold onto."

Christmas, for many, is not always merry and bright. For the evening of our Blue Christmas service it's okay to set aside the tinsel for a bit and acknowledge the hard stuff in life. We invite you to join us for this special holiday service to hear a message of hope and love.

The service will be live streamed on youtube.com/LutherMemorialOnline and will also be available on our website at www.luthermemorialonline.org the following day.

Your Holiday Spread

In time to make your holiday delicious and easy, Gahr's hamloaf is available. And specialty sausage flavors will also make your mouth water. For Christmas dinner and any time of the year, you may want to order a few. Continuing to support local companies, Gahr's is located in Franklin, PA.



- ❖ Orders for hamloaf will be accepted through Sunday December 3.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Cost: 1 lb. hamloaf @ \$6 / \$2 lb. hamloaf @ \$10.
- ❖ A variety of sausage flavors at \$5/lb.
- ❖ Delivery: Orders will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 17.

Christmas Eve Services

The Nativity of Our Lord ***Sunday, December 24, 2023*** ***Main Church***

10:30 A.M.	MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
5:30 P.M.	PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANTOR, WALT GABER
6:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 P.M.	PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANTOR, WALT GABER
10:30 P.M.	CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE



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



Christmas Day ***Monday, December 25, 2023*** ***Main Church***

10:30 A.M. ONE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN OUR MAIN CHURCH.



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 \$8.50 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 10.** 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 \$8.50 = _____

(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

_____ WILL TAKE ORDER

_____ GIVE TO SHUT-INS

_____ WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS



Hanging of the Greens

Help us prepare for the Christmas season and join us for the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 3 following services. It will surely put the jingle in your step!



Advent Family Fun

**Sunday, December 3
12:00 - 2:00 pm**

Preparing for Christmas with your family and friends makes it all the more special. We want to share in the anticipation of this season with you.

All are encouraged to join us on December 3 following worship for an afternoon of family fun. Not only will we have a great time decorating our church for the season, we will make our own Advent Wreaths, enjoy some treats, have fun with holiday activities and enjoy our time together.

All supplies for our wreaths will be provided. C'mon down and celebrate the Christmas season with us.



Christian Education

Sunday Mornings

Second Sunday of each Month

Children in PreK- Grade 5 will gather for Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 9:30- 10:15am. We'll see everyone on **Sunday, December 10 and kick off 2024 on Sunday, January 14/**

Our LYO, grades 6th – 12th will continue to meet the third Sunday of each month; December 17 and January 21.



A very special Christmas program will be offered during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday morning, December 17. Join us for a Christmas celebration.

Adult Forum

We will gather for Adult Faith Formation on Sundays at 9:10am in the Library and on Mondays at 12 noon in the Parlor. While all ages are welcome, topics and styles of teaching may not be appropriate for the youngest members.

- December 3/4: Isaiah and the Major-League
- December 10/11: The Minor Prophets
- December 17/18: The Prophets Who Dong Get a Book



- January 14: Lawful and Beneficial
- January 21: Jesus is Coming . . . Look Busy!
- January 28: Concerning the Vulnerable

Messages for the Young & Young-at-Heart

During the “Green Season”, Pastor Jay will have messages for the young and young-at-heart on Festival Sundays:

Sunday, December 3	Sunday, December 24 (10:30am)	Sunday, January 14
Sunday, December 10	Sunday, December 24 (6:00pm)	Sunday, January 21
Sunday, December 17	Sunday, January 7	Sunday, January 28



Youth Event

Christmas Extravaganza



One of the highlights of the year for our youth is the Christmas Extravaganza! Youth in grades 6-12 will “ring” in our final month of the year on Friday, December 1. Where to be and when you may ask?

Festivities will be held at Luther Memorial from 5:30 – 10:00pm. Think Harry Potter; that’s our theme for the night. We’ve got food, games and surprises that will keep you smiling all evening.

You’ve got one more day to RSVP – be sure to let Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Prylinski or the church office know by Wednesday, November 30.

Music Ministry

Second Sunday Family & Friends Preludes



The **Luther Memorial Concert Series** is once again hosting the "Second Sunday Family & Friends Prelude" series. On the **2nd Sunday of each month, October through May**, the prelude to the 10:30 service will feature instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers, highlighting the talents of members within our fellowship - congregational musicians as well as others who have a close association with Luther Memorial. On **December 10, the prelude will be presented by organist Bill Lasher**, playing arrangements of several Advent hymns. Please plan to arrive early and be in your seats to hear the entire prelude. There are still some dates including January 14 & February 11 available for other musicians during the 2023-2024 season - please let Walt Gaber know if you are interested or know of someone that should be invited to participate. And finally, a big "Thank You" to Linda Melaragno and Barb Moore who provided very musical and enjoyable preludes in October and November.

Advent and Christmas Season

You are invited to join the Luther Memorial choirs (*vocal and/or handbell*) for the seasons of Advent and Christmas during the month of December. In addition to singing and playing at the regular Sunday morning 10:30 service, there are several additional services celebrating various aspects of these seasons:

- St. Lucia Festival - Sunday, December 10, 4:00pm
- Blue Christmas Service - Wednesday, December 13, 6:00pm
- Christmas Eve Services - Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm & 10:30pm



If you would like to join the choirs for the month of December, please contact Cantor Walt Gaber (WaltGaber@gmail.com, 814-602-2755) and plan to begin attending Thursday evening rehearsals immediately.

Faith Formation

B.A.D. – Bible after Dark

Get together with local Lutherans (and others) to chat about Bible Stories for Adults. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage or other sustenance as we chat! We gather every **first Wednesday** of the month at 6:30pm at The Brewerrie. Join us and bring a friend.

Stop in on December 6 and kick off the new year on January 3 to grow our friendships and share faith stories.



Dinner with Our Flock



January will bring us together for a new year and our first family gathering on **Wednesday, January 17**. Join us for Dinner with Our Flock (we're a great flock) and enjoy a relaxed and fun evening. We begin with a delicious meal and top that off with a short Bible lesson and a craft or activity.

Dinner at 5:30pm in fellowship hall – the main dish will be provided; please bring a dish to share.

What is ALT Worship?



Our monthly gatherings will continue beginning **Wednesday, January 10**. We will come together at 5:30pm for a new worship experience; *A Lutheran Table*. The service is about 60 minutes and centers around sharing a meal. We begin by preparing the meal and the worship space together and end with dessert and clean-up. All part of the worship experience. We will also share in Communion. Come on out for something new and a unique encounter with the Divine!

Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



The homemade gifts are the special ones. Especially the ones that were made with love, like prayer shawls. Knitting with friends will put some joy in your day so we hope you stop down on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month with your yarn projects. You'll be bursting with Christmas joy in no time. Join us in the parlor.

Gatherings: December 12, January 9 and January 23 from 10:00am – 12:00 noon.

If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 454-0106, ext. 233 or the church office, ext. 221 with any questions. Please let us know if you are low on yarn and some can be dropped off to you.

OWLS

Christmas Party Time!
Tuesday, December 19
11:30am – 1:30pm



Are you up for some celebrating? Get that Christmas happiness going and fa-la-la-la your way down to church for our annual Christmas get together. We'll sing some favorite carols, feast on a delicious lunch and have a festive afternoon. The main dish will be provided; we are asking that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share. In lieu of a gift

exchange, a collection will be taken towards the ELCA Good Gifts Program.

Please RSVP to the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221 or Jan MacInnes by Friday, December 15.

OWLS



Valentine Luncheon
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
12:00 noon
Convention Center

The very popular Valentine's Day luncheon will return in 2024. As we all know this event fills up early, so reservations need to be in by the end of the year.

Valentine's Day occurs on Ash Wednesday this year so a fish option will be available on the menu.

Reservations are necessary by the end of December. Only a certain number of reservations will be accepted by the Convention Center so it is important to get ours in. To RSVP, please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office. Thank you.

Vendor Fair

Saturday, January 20, 2024
10:00am – 3:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Many local vendors and crafters will have eye-catching items for sale to begin the new year at our Vendor Fair. Add our Vendor Fair to your January 2024 calendar and stop down for some great after Christmas & Happy New Year finds.

VENDOR &

FAIR

Christmas is not a myth,
not a tradition, not a dream.
It is a glorious reality.

BILLY GRAHAM

Women of the ELCA

Tuesday Circle News

Meetings are held at 3:00pm in the church parlor.
December: Tuesday, December 5 January : A meeting will not be held



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



Meetings are held at 12:00 noon in the church parlor.
Scheduled gatherings are not held in January and February.
For more information on the Deborah Circle, please contact Judy Johnson at 833-4600.

Christmas Surprise

At the November 7 meetings the Deborah Circle and Tuesday Circle filled 40 bags for the men and women of Warren State Hospital. These much needed items have made it to Santa’s sleigh and will be delivered to make Christmas very special for the many residents.



Thankofferings



If you have not yet turned in your Thankoffering, you are welcome to give this to Pat Young or drop off in the church office. Thank you.

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, January 28, 2024
Joint Worship Service at 10:30am
ANNUAL MEETING – 11:30AM

All members of Luther Memorial Church are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28 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 2023 reports, election of Church Council members, and a review of the proposed 2024 budget. Please join us to review the year and look ahead and plan for the ministry year of 2024!

Soup

Beat the winter cold with delicious home-made soup. It will warm you up from your head to your toes. Stuffed pepper soup (yum!) will be available on Sunday, January 21.



Blood Pressures



Start the year on a healthy note and get your blood pressure check on Sunday, January 21 following the 10:30am service. We welcome you to stop in the library for your check-up.

Passing the Baton



I recently saw and shared a post on FaceBook that made me stop and think about what is happening to the culture of the American family. The author is unavailable.

We take our children to the mall
to meet Santa... Why not take
them to church to meet Jesus.

And then this daily devotion showed up. It is from Joy of my Heart Daily Devotion by Anne Graham Lotz. "Winning a relay race depends not only on the speed of the runners but also on their skillful ability to transfer the baton. If the baton is dropped, precious seconds are wasted, and the race may be lost. If the runner fails to pass the baton, he is disqualified from the race altogether."

In the race of life, the "baton" is the truth that leads to personal faith in God. Each generation receives the "baton" from the previous generation, runs the race to the best of its ability, then passes the "baton" smoothly and securely to the next generation.

Every day we see advances in our civilization bringing better health care, longer life spans and ever-expanding knowledge. But underneath all the progress and sophistication, our civilization is experiencing a bankruptcy of moral and spiritual values that threatens to erode our very existence. In the midst of wickedness and waste, we must survive to relay the baton of truth that leads to personal faith in God that has been handed down to generation after generation since Creation.

And then another devotion came from Women of the ELCA Daily Grace. This also addressed the future of our children and the church:

We plant, our children eat by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni from the November 2020 Gather Magazine. She and her spouse "serve as country coordinators for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program in Jerusalem and the West Bank. One volunteer shared this story of a conversation with her Palestinian Lutheran host mother: 'On one side of the garden there are small trees...I asked her how long it takes for a little tree to start bearing fruit... I was surprised to hear that it can take 10 to 20 years ... she said that their parents had a saying 'We plant; our children eat.'

Whether we realize it or not, everything we do is pointed toward the future, despite the knowledge that this future is never guaranteed. This is what faith looks like in ordinary life. We do not know that any of the things we imagine will come to pass, but we place our hope and trust in the possibility that they can.

The future is at the heart of God's promises. We are freed by the gospel not to worry about the future but to build and work together with God for the future that will come after us, trusting that as we plant, our children will eat."

This got me thinking about how "passing the baton" and the planting and eating happened in my family. My mom worked nights as a private duty nurse and her schedule didn't allow for many weekends off. As a result, my dad was prominent in our faith formation. He was very active in many programs at Bethany Lutheran Church, including making sure their 3 children attended church and were active in programs there. Recently I found a newspaper article he wrote in 1960 and want to share it with you. Times and thoughts have changed, so please remember when this was written.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS

By Bertil C. Gustavson, Strong Vincent High School Principal

Christmas belongs to all of us. We are a Christian nation, traditionally and historically. Jesus was the great philosopher and the great teacher, and all of us are benefiting from His teachings.

From Christ as a teacher we have inherited a pattern of living that is the hope of humanity. The birthday of Christ is something for all to acknowledge and celebrate.

Christmas is a great religious holiday and I think that every citizen can conscientiously and appropriately commemorate the birthday of Christ as the natal day of the Great Benefactor to all of us.

(cont'd.)

I heartily agree with Christopher Morley who said, "Who ever wanted a new thought for Christmas? Christmas is a matter that humanity has taken so deeply to heart that we will not have our festival meddled with by bungling hands."

Theology is not saddled with pronouns: the best doctrine is but three words, God is Love. Love, or kindness, is fundamental of energy, enough to satisfy any brooder. And Christmas Day means the birth of a child; which is to say, the triumph of life and hope over suffering.

I was 13 when he wrote this and didn't realize till I was much older the impact he would have on my faith development. I am so happy and thankful that he passed the baton, planted so I could eat and shared the love of Jesus Christ. I hope that you too will "pass the baton" and "plant so a child can eat" because the children who will be our future, certainly need it.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Fruitful New Year!

Blessings,

Linda Graffius, RN, Faith Community Nurse

December Birthdays

Erich Pirschel 12-1
Megan Cunningham 12-1
Nathan Helsley 12-1
Michael Pirschel 12-2
Maryann Fried 12-2
Timothy Thomas, Jr. 12-3
Rose Lintelman 12-5
Adam Franks 12-6
Linda Melaragno 12-8
Xyla Lombardozzi 12-8
Lois Fobes 12-9
Christine Satur 12-10
Marc Collins 12-10
Sam Laver 12-12
Kathy Morey 12-12
Frank DiCenzo 12-12



Ely Cooney 12-12
Jack McKibben 12-13
Benjamin Davis 12-13
Skip MacInnes 12-14
Susan Long 12-14
Natalie Montero 12-16
Annabelle Cooney 12-16
Mark Cadden 12-16
Joshua Graffius 12-16
Gina Snider 12-17
Brian Franks 12-17
Robert Kraut 12-18
Jacob O'Brien 12-18
Marne Brown 12-18
Jonathan Hagen 12-19
Jordan Sturm 12-19



George Kurtich 12-19
Cheryl Markowski-Momeyer 12-21
Rose-Marie Rose 12-21
Christine Snyder 12-24
Ryan Robie 12-24
Christine Hickey 12-24
Denise King 12-26
Matthew Kinzig 12-28
Luke Huston 12-28
Madilyn Mantsch 12-29
Maura Myhoffer 12-29
Dylan Ambrose 12-30
Megan Ross 12-30
Danielle Graffius 12-30
Mindy Boyd 12-30
Evan Andrae 12-30

January Birthdays

Amy Kurtich 1-1
Nancy Come 1-2
Natalie Bartlett 1-2
Madison Chaffee 1-5
Jerry Keller 1-6
Elizabeth Hokaj 1-6
Leo Blore 1-7
Miriam Scheid 1-10
Caleb DiCenzo 1-10
Ben Gustafson 1-11
Krista Partusch 1-11
Anton Partusch 1-11
Joanne Dahlstrand 1-11
Chloe Meucci 1-11
CathyMacGregor 1-12



Matthew Lasher 1-12
Aiden Montero 1-12
Carol Davidson 1-14
Jack Bartlett 1-17
Catherine McAdoo 1-17
Robert Alvaro 1-17
Cheryl Brown 1-18
Brian Davidson 1-19
Richard O'Leary 1-19
Tim Dugan 1-20
Andres Duran 1-20
Tamara Wettekin 1-21
Spencer Cadden 1-23
Sara Wettekin 1-23
Zackary Helsley 1-23



Rebecca Brown 1-24
Ava Romba 1-24
Judy McKibben 1-24
Dave Kinzig 1-25
Gabriel Fracassi 1-25
Barbara Walter 1-26
Jan MacInnes 1-27
Kathy Weisman 1-27
Dominic Barbaro 1-27
Tammy Hessinger 1-28
Christopher Andrejewski 1-28
Sarah Heintzel 1-29
Christopher Young 1-30
Nathan Muhanna 1-30

December & January Sunshine Birthdays

Lois Fobes 12/9
Brevillier Village, Ball Pavilion
5416 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511

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

Joanne Dahlstrand 1/11
Residence at Presque Isle Bay
1012 W. Bayfront Pkwy.
Erie, PA 16507



Kathy Weisman 1/27
3503 Hazel Street
Erie, PA 16508

November 2023 Council Meeting



1. **Minutes** - The October Council meeting minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Pat Young, seconded by Pat Bellingham.
2. **Pastor's Report** - Pastor reviewed his report noting items that are coming up.
3. **Organizational Chart & Job Descriptions** - An email will be sent this week with job descriptions, personnel information, etc. Included with this will be an organizational chart which will be discussed in detail at the December council meeting.
4. **Nominating Committee Update** - Four people have been spoken with in regards to serving on council. People that have served in the past will also be contacted.
5. **Columbarium Upgrade Status Report** - Should be finishing up this week after its rapid construction.
6. **Stewardship Program Plans Update** - Christ the King Sunday is November 26 which will also be Commitment Sunday. Commitments will be received during services with special prayers/blessing.
7. **Annual Meeting: January 28, 2024** - The deadline for report submissions is January 3, 2024. Items to note are the second vote on constitution changes, Church Council elections, and the 2024 budget. A budget meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024. A follow-up approval budget meeting will be held Sunday, January 21.
8. **Endowment Committee** - On motion it was unanimous to approve a request from the Endowment Committee that a check be sent to congregants in need.
9. **LMA** - Council members have been invited to attend the LMA Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday, November 22 at 11:00am. All are asked to RSVP by November 16.
10. **Treasurer's Report** - On motion by Mike Hedlund, seconded by Jean McMillin, the report was unanimously accepted.
11. **Meeting** - The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00pm.



"Can I say, 'Yes'?"

October 2023 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
October 1	22	95	33	150
October 8	21	78	37	136
October 15	22	77	28	127
October 22	15	84	16	115
October 29	17	131	29	177
AVERAGE	19	93	29	141



BAPTISMS: KOZYK, MACKENZIE JANE - Baptized:
October 1, 2023 / Date of Birth: July 22, 2022 / Parents:
Alexis (Swanson) and David Kozyk

LETTER OF TRANSFER: ALLEN, LINDA - to Abiding
Hope Lutheran Church, Erie, PA.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED - None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: None recorded.

November 2023 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 5	31	88	43	162
November 12	27	72	49	148
November 19	41	86	24	151
November 26	21	76	24	121
AVERAGE	30	81	35	146



BAPTISMS: None recorded.

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED - None recorded.

MEMORIALS: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: None recorded.



Thank you

Dear Luther Memorial Congregation:

Please accept the sincere thanks from the Bethesda Foundation for Children Board of Directors and Bethesda Lutheran Services staff for your generous donation of \$135 in support of Bethesda's Trinity Center. Your gift and support are both greatly appreciated.

Dear Luther Memorial Church W/ELCA:

Please accept the sincere thanks from the Bethesda Foundation for Children Board of Directors and Bethesda Lutheran Services staff for your generous donation of \$75 in support of Bethesda's Trinity Center. Your gift and support are both greatly appreciated.

Your donations enable Bethesda Lutheran Services to provide the kind of quality treatment and preventative programs that make a difference in the lives of the kids we serve and provide Bethesda the ability to continue our services during this crucial time. With your help, we continue to work to provide promising futures to children, youth and families.

George R. Trauner, Executive Officer





Luther Memorial Academy

Christmas Fair



As we prepare for Christmas we want our students to have the opportunity to shop for gifts for their family. Our annual Christmas Fair will be held Thursday, November 30 and Friday, December 1. All grades will have an opportunity to shop and select some very special gifts. We have helpers to guide the children to the best choices for their recipients.

Donations of gift bags, all shapes and sizes, may be sent in to the school office anytime. It's so much fun and easy to shop this way, and the children are so proud of their purchases!

Please contact Brooke McCall at 873-8009 with any questions.

Picture Re-take Date

Does your fist picture need a little change? You're in luck – picture re-take day will be held **Thursday, December 14**. Class pictures will also be taken that day.



Christmas Vacation

**Friday, December 22 –
Tuesday, January 2**

**Dismissal on Thursday,
December 21 will be at 11:30am**

School will resume on
Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Monday, January 15



The 3 “P’s”!



Shout out to our October's Pizza with the Principal and Pastor students for exemplifying the character trait of respect. They earned a luncheon in the parlor. Stay tuned for November's winners who showed the character trait of compassion. In December we will practice the character trait of responsibility. In January we will work on the trait of creativity for the start of the new year.

Christmas Caroling



The Christmas season sometimes seems too short and there's not enough time to get all of our carols in. We'll take care of that with our Christmas Carol Sing-along on Thursday, December 21. Parents are invited to join us at 10:00am in our main church for some fun caroling and student performances.

The Mercyhurst Concert Choir will also be joining us for some added fun!

Students may be dismissed with their parents directly after the event. Those not leaving with their parents will return to the classrooms until the 11:30am dismissal.

A Very Special Day!

BISHOP LOZANO VISITS

We are excited for the visit of Bishop Michael Lozano on Wednesday, December 6. He will lead us in chapel and visit some classrooms.



ST. NICHOLAS DAY

The LMA Lions will receive a visit from Jolly Ole' St. Nick himself! He will visit during chapel on Wednesday, December 6. We ask all students to wear socks on this day because we will leave our shoes out to see if he leaves us anything fun!

Buck-A-Chick



Luther Memorial Academy and Luther Memorial Church are joining together with Buck-A-Chick donations to sponsor chickens for families in need this holiday season through God's Global Barnyard. \$1 sponsors 1 chick. Sponsors will receive a paper chick to decorate and hang in the school hallway. We will be collecting donations in the school and church offices until December 20.

Wish List

Every little bit helps LMA; thank you.

- Bottled water – small and large
- Cases of paper



- Monetary donations for Art & Music Supplies
- Monetary donations for the MJ Howell fund, which benefit teachers and staff

We Invite You to the Luther Memorial St. Lucia Festival



Sunday, December 10
4:00pm
Main Church

All are invited to attend the St. Lucia Festival at Luther Memorial Church on December 10.

Santa Lucia's Day is celebrated on December 13 in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. It commemorates the life of Santa Lucia. It's the beginning of the

Christmas season in those countries and is a celebration of light – at the time of year when the world is darker.

The tradition on Santa Lucia Day is for the oldest girl in the family to dress in a white robe with a red sash and wear a crown of candles and lingonberry leaves (lingonberries are popular berries in Sweden). Her attendants dress in white with silver crowns. Stjärngossar, Star Boy, helps light the way with his pointed hat and wand. On the morning of Santa Lucia, the children in the family will often wake their parents with a breakfast of Lussekatter (a special St. Lucia bun made with saffron), ginger cookies, coffee and glögg (hot spiced wine).

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

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 LMA Christmas Fair 3:30pm Prayer Group 5:30pm Youth Christmas Extravaganza	2 
3 Advent 1 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:10am Adult Forum 11:45am St. Lucia Rehearsal Hanging of the Greens / Advent Family Fun	4 12:00pm Adult Forum 5:30pm Endowment Cmt.	5 10:00am Study Group for Pastors 12:00pm Deborah Circle 2:30pm LMA Play Reh. 3:00pm W/ELCA	6 St. Nicholas Day 6:30pm Bible After Dark (Brewerie)	7 2:30pm LMA Play Reh. 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	8 6:30pm Club 50	9 1:30pm NW PA Episcopal Diocese Service
10 Advent 2 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:10am Adult Forum 9:30am Sunday School 10:15am Second Sun. Family & Friends Prelude 4:00pm St. Lucia	11 12:00pm Adult Forum 	12 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 2:30pm LMA Play Reh. 6:00pm Council	13 6:00pm Blue Christmas Service	14 LMA Re-take Picture Day 2:30pm LMA Play Reh. 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	15 Gr. 4-8/Nutcracker	16 9:30am Cheer Basket Assembly
17 Advent 3 8:15/10:30am Worship (Family Christmas Program) 9:10am Adult Forum 11:30am Cookie Decorating Cheer Basket Delivery	18 12:00pm Adult Forum 6:00pm PTL	19 10:00am Study Group for Pastors 11:00am OWLS 2:30pm LMA Play Reh. 3:00pm School Bd.	20	21 10:00am LMA Christmas Carol Sing-Along 11:30am LMA Dismissal 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	22 LMA Closed 	23
24 Advent 4 10:30am Worship Christmas Eve 5:30pm Special Music 6:00pm Worship 10:00pm Special Music 10:30am Worship	25 Merry Christmas 10:30am Worship Church Offices & LMA Closed	26 Church Offices & LMA Closed	27 LMA Closed 	28 LMA Closed	29 Church Offices & LMA Closed	30
31 8:15am/10:30am Worship						

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LMA & Church Offices Closed	2 LMA & Church Offices Closed	3 6:30pm Bible After Dark	4 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	5 	6 10:00am Quilting
7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship	8 	9 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal 6:00pm Council	10 5:30pm ALT Worship	11 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	12	13
14 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:10am Adult Forum 9:30am Sunday School	15 12:00pm Adult Forum	16 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal 3:00pm School Board 6:00pm Budget Meeting	17 5:30pm Dinner With Our Flock 6:30pm Worship & Music	18 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	19	20 10:00am Vendor Fair 10:00am Quilting
21 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:10am Adult Forum 11:30am Blood Pressures 11:30am Budget Meeting 1:00pm VASA	22 12:00pm Adult Forum	23 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal	24	25 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal	26	27 
28 10:30am Worship 9:10am Adult Forum 11:30am Congregational Meeting	29 12:00pm Adult Forum	30 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal	31 11:30am LMA Dismissal/Teacher Meeting			

JUST FOR KIDS

Christmas I SP



— FIND AND COLOR THE ITEM