

# LUTHER MEMORIAL

## C H U R C H



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

Volume 50, Issue 1

February 2023

### 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

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February has become known unofficially as the month of love. The reason for this would likely be due to Valentine's Day falling directly in its midst. What better way to show your love than to gift someone with chocolate, cards, stuffed animals, and maybe a singing telegram!

This February we also prepare our hearts and minds for Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday. The sign of the cross made in ashes symbolizes our mortality and that we are repentant for our sins. We will reflect on this given life during lent in prayer and fast to remind us of the sacrifice that God has given in His son.

Lent might feel like a somber time, but there is nothing somber about our relationship with God. We remember that Jesus as the sacrificial lamb was given because of God's love for us. The resurrection to come symbolizes that love coming full circle, blessing us with a new spiritual life with Him in heaven.

This month will see our final ReCharge service held on Sunday, February 19. The ReCharge ministry has been a blessing to so many in its span of six years at Luther Memorial. We embrace and pray for the band as they seek to further their mission in this world by looking to new opportunities of ministry.

Pastor Jay Mitchell was officially called to be the next pastor of Luther Memorial on January 15. We are excited to take the next step as a congregation with his care and guidance. Pastor Jay will bring with him new and refreshing ideas, while embracing the things that already define us. Everything working together to encourage a beautiful community that shares a loving relationship with God.

Change is not always easy or comfortable, but we understand it is part of God's plan. When we step out of our comfort zone, and turn our hearts over to God completely, we trust that He is with us along the way. In these moments, the Holy Spirit is at work within us, and the reward can be truly amazing.

In these times of change, reflection and prayer, we anticipate the new life we have been given, and look to the resurrection of Christ.

We are alive because of God's overwhelming love for all of us!

*"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14*

## Annual Reports

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A hard copy of Luther Memorial's Annual Report can be found on our hospitality tables and a copy is posted to our church website at [www.luthermemorialonline.org](http://www.luthermemorialonline.org). Please take the time to review the report and be grateful for the wonderful ministry happening in this place. As a reminder, we continue to actively use the church website to post Sunday bulletins, ministry newsletters and a daily calendar.

## Luther Memorial ReCharge

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**Sunday, February 19**

Time:

**4:00-5:00pm** Dinner, games & fellowship  
**5:00-6:00pm** Worship

A time to be with friends and celebrate the love Jesus has for us all. We hope you set a bit of time aside on the afternoon of February 19 to join us for a home cooked meal and laughter.



We look forward to being with you during our final contemporary worship service at Luther Memorial Church. We lift our voices in praise and our hearts will be full.

## Lenten Worship

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The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Services will be offered at 12:00 noon and 7:00pm.

Ash Wednesday: 12:00 noon service with Pastor Moran preaching  
7:00pm service with Pastor Lundwall preaching and Michael Snider assisting

## Wednesdays in Lent

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This year's Wednesday Lenten Worship scripture readings will be full of back-and-forth conversations with God. These conversations are filled with questions. People use questions to interrogate or to express their confusion or doubt. Questions express the longings of the heart and the puzzles of the mind. A question shows the distance between me and you. A question can also bring us closer. Let these questions—those others ask of God, and those you have carried yourself—draw you closer into conversation with God and with others this Lenten season.

Please join us for our Wednesday services which will begin at 12:05pm.

March 1	Questions that Divide, Questions that Bind
March 8	Simple Questions
March 15	Questions for the Curious
March 22	Questions that Change, Questions that Change You
March 29	Questions that Kick



## Lenten Luncheons

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**The season of Lent** will soon be upon us giving us an opportunity to revive our Wednesday luncheons. Due to Covid we have not had them for the past three (3) years. Hopefully, there will be much enthusiasm for them once again.

Lenten Luncheons will be offered for each of the five (5) Wednesdays in Lent; March 1 - March 29. The luncheons will be served at 12:35pm in fellowship hall. The cost for each meal is \$8.

A planning meeting for our luncheons will be held Tuesday, February 7 at 11:00am in the parlor for all who are interested in helping. We need cooks and help with setup and clean up. Please contact Betty Pletz, 814-898-1053, or Norma Buerk, 814-454-0106, ext. 221, with any questions. Thank you.

## Christian Education

### Children's Church

Children in grades PreK – Kdg.; 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> will all meet on the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 – 10:15am in their individual class groups. This schedule is easier for families to keep track of class meeting days.



❖ Children's Church: Sunday, February 12.

Our LYO, grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> will continue to meet the third Sunday of each month; February 19 at 9:30am.

### First Holy Communion Classes

**Sundays, February 26 – April 2  
9:30am**

First Holy Communion classes will begin on the First Sunday in Lent, February 26. Our students will receive special instruction by Ann Flick and Beth Keller on Sundays throughout Lent from 9:30 – 10:15am. Students will receive their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 7:00pm service.

Class will meet in the fellowship hall area. The final class will be held on Palm Sunday, April 2.

All 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to take part in these classes. If your son or daughter is older and has not had the opportunity to attend First Communion class, we invite them to take part. Please contact Norma at 454-0106, ext. 221, if your child(ren) will be attending. Thank you.



Teachers and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

### Confirmation Camp at Lutherlyn



Luther Memorial Church's 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be attending Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherlyn from **Sunday, June 18 – Friday, June 23, 2023**. Information will be sent to all parents and students about the details of Confirmation Camp. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

### Camp Lutherlyn News

#### Regular Summer Camp for All Ages



Lutherlyn is preparing for Summer Camp 2023! Registration for 2023 starts on February 1. Lutherlyn continues to adjust their schedule and plans following all American Camp Association and CDC guidelines. Camperships are available for all who need assistance. The 2023 Summer Schedule is available at [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer). More details will be added as they become available.

## Youth Events

Need some perking up during the cold and snowy winter months? Keep your eyes open for some fun events coming up in February – we're thinking bowling and a movie afternoon. Sound good?



Be sure to check out the upcoming bulletins and your emails for the dates. Check in with the church office with any questions.

## Women of the ELCA

### Circle Meetings

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Our Circle meetings for February will not be held. We'll stay out of the February chill and see everyone at our next gatherings on March 7.

Deborah Circle will meet at 12:00 noon

Tuesday Circle will meet at 3:00pm

All women are welcome at our Circle gatherings. For more information on our Tuesday Circle, contact Pat Young, President, at 455-7736 or our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221. Our Deborah Circle coordinator is Judy Johnson, 833-4600.

### W/ELCA Board Meeting

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Our Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 14 at 3:00pm in the church parlor. Please contact Pat Young, 455-7736, with any questions.

### 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.



## Fellowship

### Magic Fingers Grace Group

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February – with every stitch we knit love and warmth together. Wrap someone in love and knit a beautiful prayer shawl. We're gathering on Tuesday, February 28 from 10:00am – 12:00 noon in our church parlor. Gather up your yarn projects and join us for laughter and conversation.

If you have questions on how to knit, we're here to help. Please let us know if you are low on yarn and some can be dropped off to you. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We will not meet on February 14 due to our OWLS gathering at the Convention Center. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 454-0106, ext. 233 or the church office, ext. 221 with any questions.

### OWLS

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Just a little reminder for all those that made reservations for the Valentine luncheon at the Convention Center on Tuesday, February 14. This lovely gathering will be held from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge for parking.

Everyone is looking forward to a delicious lunch and a time with friends.

### OWLS – Older Wiser Lutherans

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Our OWLS group is encouraged to take part in the Wednesday Lenten worship services during February and March.

Join us each week as we prepare for Easter by attending our Lenten series:

**Wednesdays, March 1 – March 29**

12:05pm – Service

## Let's Re-visit RSV



In 2018 I wrote an article about RSV, respiratory syncytial virus. Who knew at that time that in 2022-2023 scientists, healthcare and researchers would be concerned with a “triple-demic”? They became concerned about Covid, the flu and RSV’s rising incidences hitting early and hard. The only explanation from doctors for RSV starting unseasonably early is because children were shielded from common infections during the Covid-19 lockdown. The incidence of RSV circulation starts in the fall and peaks in the winter. This is the same as the flu and now Covid. This is all the more reason to be aware of these communicable diseases.

How serious is RSV? It is a respiratory virus that can affect people of all ages. In older children and adults it causes mostly upper respiratory infection symptoms (colds) but it can be serious for infants, older adults and anyone with underlying medical conditions.

How is it spread?

- It is in droplets in the air spread by an infected person by coughing and sneezing.
- Direct contact, such as kissing the face of a child who has RSV or if you have it and don’t know. This is why parents have become protective of people touching and kissing their babies.
- Touching objects or surfaces with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing or sanitizing your hands.
- People who have RSV are usually contagious for 3-8 days. But, sometimes infants and people with weakened immune systems can continue to spread the virus as long as 4 weeks.

How can we protect ourselves? These recommendations are more familiar than in 2018.

- Covering coughs and sneezes. Wear a mask if desired.
- Hand washing and using hand sanitizers
- Avoid contact with ill people
- Avoid sharing eating and drinking utensils.
- Keep infants <1 year (especially <6 months) away from people with upper respiratory infections. Being overprotective may be necessary.
- Staying home when we are ill is important.

What are the symptoms?

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Coughing, sneezing
- Fever – low grade <101 degrees

Serious symptoms are:

- Difficulty breathing and wheezing
- Fever >103 degrees
- Difficulty drinking, swallowing
- Lethargy or irritability

These symptoms usually appear in stages and not all at once. In very young infants their only symptoms may be irritability, decreased activity and trouble breathing.

What are the risk factors?

- Age – infants under 6 months (especially if premature) OR adults > 65 years, especially if diabetic, coronary heart disease, lung disease, weakened immune systems and diabetes
- Crowded places with unknown infected people
- Exposure to other children at daycare or school
- Smoking – Don’t smoke around infants and children. Babies exposed to tobacco smoke have an increased risk of getting RSV with potentially severe symptoms.

When to call the Doctor?

- Call when any of the symptoms get worse or a trip to the ER is needed. If you’re concerned call 911 for an ambulance. You will be seen quicker than if you walk in.

cont’d.:



### Let's Re-visit RSV, cont'd.:

How is RSV diagnosed?

- A good medical history and physical exam is necessary for a diagnosis.
- Oxygen saturation
- Lab testing of nasal fluid
- Chest x-ray to check for pneumonia
- Blood tests to check for bacterial infection and dehydration
- If very ill, blood and urine cultures may need to be done.

Mild RSV usually requires no specific treatment and, if the symptoms are mild, can be treated at home. For infants and children only give OTC drugs under the recommendation of your healthcare provider. Severe infections may need supplemental oxygen, hydration/IV fluids and supportive medications like steroids. When I wrote the original article my research showed that RSV was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in infants. Now it's not even in the top 5!! I couldn't find current statistics for RSV being a cause of death in adults. So between better healthcare and awareness, we are making improvements in diagnosing, and treating RSV. So I hope this article has increased your knowledge and awareness to this virus called RSV, which we hear so much about.

Take care and stay healthy!

Blessings,

Linda Graffius, RN, Faith Community Nurse



### **Fall Prevention Friday**

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Falling is not a natural part of aging. We invite you to come and learn the many tools you can use to reduce your risk of falling and how to prevent injury. And, you may not realize it, but your heart health matters in preventing falls too.

Join us the first Friday of each month at Luther Memorial from 10:00 – 11:00am. Our next gathering is Friday, February 3. Please contact Linda Graffius at [lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org) or 454-0106, ext. 229 with any questions. Reservations are appreciated so materials are prepared for everyone. Thank you.

### **Blood Pressure Screenings**

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Stay healthy - blood pressure screenings will be offered in the school library by our parish nurses on **Sunday, February 19.**



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

Mark Lechner who died Saturday, December 16, 2022.  
Bev Held, Brian Held's mom, who died December 16, 2022.  
Carolyn Luebke, Pat Young's cousin, who died December 19, 2022.



## Thank You's

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Dear Luther Memorial fund:

You are so generous and important to our mission, a mission we share together to help the homeless of the Erie area. Your help with the Upper room is really appreciated AND really makes a difference for those in our community who are homeless. Your donation is most welcome and will go to helping clothe and feed the homeless of the Erie community.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Cristopher Taylor, Executive Director/Upper Room of Erie*

*(A donation was given to the Upper Room by the Luther Memorial Member Outreach Ministry Committee.)*



Dear Friends of Luther Memorial,

We thank you for your generous Christmas gifts to us from the council, congregation, and Women of the ELCA. It has been a privilege for us to share ministry with you during this time of transition. Luther Memorial has remained strong because of the time and talents you have given to support the many programs and ministries we do in Jesus' name. God's blessings to you in the New Year.

*Pastor Brian Moran and Pastor Karen Lundwall*



Dear Luther Memorial:

December 14 Annual Bethesda Trinity Center Neighborhood Families Christmas Dinner ~

Due to Covid we were unable to have the usual sit-down dinner in 2020 and 2021, but we were finally able to have the usual dining room family gathering this year! Many Luther Memorial families came to help with the serving of the dinner. It was an impressive show of teamwork by all! I want to thank everyone who came to help with the dinner. I believe the families were happy! And a heartfelt "Thank You"! to all who donated food and cookies for the dinner!! Everyone was thoughtful and generous, and I appreciate everyone's efforts that made the evening successful.

God bless you all!!

*Roberta Lobaugh*



Pastor Moran & Linda Graffius:

A year ago on Christmas Eve my husband had unexpected triple by-pass surgery at Hamot. My daughter and I attended your late service and it was exactly what we needed after a long day at the hospital. You were both so welcoming and the service was what we were missing from home. I am happy to report that Shane is doing well and back to normal. Thank you again for your kindness and best wishes for 2023.

In Christ, *Sue Fisher*



Dear Care Ministry:

Thank you so much for the fruit and candy basket we received at Christmas. The cards are very much appreciated throughout the year, knowing that our friends at Luther Memorial haven't forgotten us and continue to give us emotional support..

Love, *Diane and Bob Giannelli*



Luther Memorial:

A big thank you to the health care people who were there when I needed help.

Dear Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA:

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$148.28. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Even in unsettling times, Women of the ELCA in all its expressions – congregational and special units, synodical women's organizations, the church-wide women's organization – is still at work with life-changing ministry. We might be engaging in ministry and action in different ways for a while, but that's what we do – because that's who we are: a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And we've committed ourselves to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Your giving helps make that happen. Thank you.

Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude, *Linda Post Bushkofsky*



## Did Someone Say Soup??

### Delicious Soup

When it's cold outside nothing hits the spot like Luther Memorial's homemade soup. Treat your tummy to some. Available for purchase following the 10:30 service on February 19. Proceeds benefit our youth.



### Souper Bowl Tasting



Need something to warm you up? Something tasty, delicious and full of variety? **The Souper Bowl Tasting Event on Sunday, February 5 is just what you need!**

We invite you to make a batch of your favorite soup to share. Tables will be set up in fellowship hall for each different soup and everyone will have the opportunity for a sample taste.

If you don't have the knack for making soup, please come and have a taste of the many varieties available. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

### "Souper" Bowl



The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national project sponsored by churches to help alleviate hunger in the community. Soup kettles will be at the entrances of the church on Sunday, February 5 if you would like to make a donation. All donations received are kept in our local community.



## February Birthdays

Jessica Copfer 2-1	Rosemari Solt 2-12	Jane Kinzig 2-20
Rick Kern 2-1	Alexander Spaulding 2-12	Lila Heckelman 2-21
Cheryl Hessinger 2-2	Paul Young 2-12	Coleen DiCenzo 2-21
Lois Smith 2-3	Christopher Allen 2-13	Sheryl Kern 2-22
Montie Collier 2-3	David Ditz 2-13	Cheryl Andrae 2-22
Linda Allen 2-3	Betty Pletz 2-13	Cathie Dugan 2-23
Linda Burling 2-3	Laura Symes 2-14	Emma Downey 2-24
Vickie Diehl 2-4	Mason Henry 2-15	Grace Spaulding 2-25
Cameron Casey 2-6	Beth Keller 2-16	Keith Perry, 02-25
Ashley Koziarski 2-6	Jordyn Williams 2-16	Nancy Benacci, 02-25
Elliott Schumacher 2-6	Carl Anderson, III 2-16	Pam Arnold 2-25
Michael Snider 2-7	Jasper Eagle 2-16	John Bartlett 2-27
Cathy Meyn 2-7	Melissa Fromyer 2-17	Amelia Lang 2-27
Jackie Lupo 2-8	Lydia Cowan 2-17	Robert Carlson 2-28
Adam Nicotra 2-8	Lena Martin 2-18	Christine Fracassi 2-28
Charlie Lintelman 2-10	Carolyn Carlson 2-18	James Benson 2-28
John Vali 2-10	Shirley Collier 2-18	
Lucy Fromyer 2-11	Jonathan Ulrich 2-20	



## Valentine Trivia



**Question:** Before "X" stood for a kiss, what did it represent at the end of a letter?

**Answer:** The cross

**Question:** What Valentine's Day candy was first created on equipment made for lozenges?

**Answer:** Sweethearts

**Question:** When did Sweethearts first get their shape?

**Answer:** 1901

## November 2022 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>4:00pm</u> <u>ReCharge</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 4	37	87		31	155
November 13	25	69	39	26	159
November 20	15	58		28	101
November 27	27	80		12	119
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>134</b>



**BAPTISMS:** None recorded.

**LETTER OF TRANSFER:** None recorded.

**FUNERALS:** None recorded.

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None recorded.

**MEMORIALS:** None recorded

**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.

**December 2022 Statistics**

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>4:00pm</u> <u>ReCharge</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 4	34	72		21	127
December 11	30	70		21	121
December 18	34	83	25	49	191
December 25 (8:15 not held)		22		39	61
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>125</b>

**SPECIAL SERVICES:**

	<u>4:00pm</u>	<u>6:00pm</u>	<u>10:30pm</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 7 (Blue Christmas)		31		24	55
December 11 (St. Lucia)	225			72	297
December 24 (Christmas Eve)		155	28	67	250

**BAPTISMS:** None recorded.**FUNERALS:** None recorded.**MEMORIALS:** OVERBERG, DOROTHY - from:  
Pat Young**GILBERT, HENRY - from:**

Jan &amp; Skip MacInnes

**LETTER OF TRANSFER:** None recorded.**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None recorded.**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.**January 2023 Statistics**

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>4:00pm</u> <u>ReCharge</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
January 1	17	58		43	118
January 8	31	71	18	51	171
January 15	47	144		111	302
January 22	24	82		29	135
January 29 (Annual Meeting/8:15 service not held)	N/A	120		18	138

**BAPTISMS:** None recorded.**FUNERALS:** HELD, BEVERLY J. - Date of Death:  
December 16, 2022 / Date of Funeral: January 21, 2023 /  
Pastor Karen Lundwall preaching.**MEMORIALS:** HELD, BEVERLY - from:  
Jan & Skip MacInnes                      Lois & Les Fobes**LECHNER, MARK - from:**

Marilyn Rositer

Brian Hubbard

Patricia Boyd

Jan &amp; Skip MacInnes

Jane &amp; Dean Gladden

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



## December 2022 Council Meeting

1. *Minutes* of the November council meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. *Treasurer's Report* - Approval of the Treasurer's Report was motioned to be approved by Bill Lasher and seconded by Betty Pletz. Motion was unanimously accepted.
3. *Communications* - These will be added to the monthly newsletter.
4. *Proposed Parking* - The design for the current and new additional parking areas will be southbound only with angled parking spaces. The design, with an additional 36 parking spaces, includes lighting and pavilion.
5. *Tree Removal* - A price from Doug Chaffee and contractor for removal of dead trees and stump grinding, cleanup, topsoil, grading and seeding is \$2,500.
6. *Lighting* - Connecto submitted a price of \$22,900 for lighting along parking area. The price for lighting in front of the church is \$7,000. The price for optional inside corner light is \$1,000. Pricing for optional replacement of school wall floods, school pole floods, and tenant building floods is \$3,000.
  - a. The Property Committee proposes that we accept the \$22,900, \$7,000 and \$3,000 bids as one motion.
  - b. On motion it was unanimous to approve \$32,900 from the Memorial Fund to pay for Connecto's electrical work.
  - c. On motion it was unanimous to approve \$2,500 from the Memorial Fund to pay for the tree removal, stump grinding, cleanup, topsoil, grading and seeding.
  - d. On motion it was unanimous to approve the concept of parking proposal.
7. *Nominations for Council:*

Jean McMillan - 1 year	Pat Young - 3 years	Gina Snider - 3 years
Dave Kinzig - 3 years	Mike Hedlund - 3 years	
8. *LMA Bylaws* - Bylaws were approved and Attorney Tom Tupitza is preparing the document. The Bylaws will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
9. *Blue Christmas* - There were 31 in attendance at the service. A new committee is needed to arrange a reception for next year.
10. *St. Lucia Festival* - Approximately 200 were in attendance for the service. The fellowship hall was set up for 136; most chairs were filled.
11. *Congregational Meeting* - The following will be discussed:
  - a. Les will mention constitutional changes
  - b. Presentation of council candidates
  - c. Approval of Luther Memorial Academy Bylaws
  - d. Greenspace Update and Presentation of Plan and Survey

Tree Plantings	Lighting	Lighting of LM Building	Lighting of Greenspace
Wall	Parking	Pavilion	Gardens
Irrigation	Signage		
12. *Call Committee* - A recommendation of candidate for council to meet has been made.
13. *Renew Erie* - Awaiting insurance claim for the damaged post.
14. *Pastor's Office* - The office has been repaired, repainted and cleaned.
15. *Panic Bars* - These have been installed on the east Narthex doors.
16. *Safety Training* - Tom Klomp and Linda Graffius attended two meetings about Active Shooter Training and Safeguard the Sacred Program.
17. *Pledges* - Additional pledges have been received. The slips will be placed in the bulletins through December 18.
18. *Council Meeting* - Scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00pm.

## January 2023 Council Meeting

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1. *Minutes* of the December council meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. *Treasurer's Report* - Approval of the Treasurer's Report was motioned to be approved by Pat Bellingham and seconded by Liz Stroup. Motion was unanimously accepted.
3. *Communications* - These will be added to the monthly newsletter.
4. *Property Committee* - Connecto will install lighting for parking lot, etc. Discussion regarding the possibility of ADT installing cameras on the lamp posts. This will be considered after the after poles are in. Doug Chaffee, Chaffee Landscaping, will remove the trees in front of the church on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.
5. *LMA Bylaws* - It is best not to separate the church and school as separate entities due to liability. LMA is now an LLC. A change on voting membership was made. The Bylaws will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
6. *Pastor Jay Mitchell* - A meet and greet is scheduled for Saturday, January 14 from 3:30 - 6:00pm. Pastor Mitchell will preach at the 8:15 and 10:30am services on Sunday, January 15. Tallying votes for the 8:15 service will be Mark Howell and Vickie Blasco. Tallying votes for the 10:30 service will be Elaine Kern, Jeanne Gaber, Ann Flick and John Bartlett. Results will be made public after the meeting following the second service. The compensation package will be voted on at both services and results made public following the meeting of the second service. The total minimum salary package offered should be \$57,997. Pastor Mitchell has asked for a total package of salary, insurance, housing, etc. as \$76,262.
7. *Columbarium Committee* - The committee would like to add columbarium spaces. The cost of this would come from the Columbarium fund. On motion it was unanimous to approve this request which will create 104 more niches. The Property Committee will review and it will then be presented at the Congregational Meeting.
8. *Signage* - LMA Open House is scheduled for Sunday, February 5. On motion it was unanimous that the request made to hang signs advertising the Open House be granted.
9. *Continuing Education* - Linda has requested funding for a registration for a convention. On motion it was unanimous that Linda speaks with Beth and Sarah to ask if she is able to use some of their continuing education funding.
10. *Constitutional Changes* - Les will discuss this at the Congregational Meeting.
11. *Hagan History Center* - A tour of downtown churches has been arranged for Saturday, May 6 from 12:00 noon - 3:00pm. Churches involved are Luther Memorial, St. James AME, St. Patrick's, St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, St. Hedwig, and the Russian Orthodox Church.
12. *Parking Lot Permit* - Les will sign and submit the appropriate paperwork to the zoning office.
13. *Parking on Green Space* - A chain fence will be installed across the driveway entrances which were used for the motel. A letter will be sent to Cathedral Prep concerning students parking out front.
14. *Meetings* - A budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00pm. The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00pm.

## Erie Lutheran Conference Website

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A website has been designed for the Erie Lutheran Conference featuring the 18 ELCA Lutheran churches that span from North East, PA to Girard. By going to this website, [erieconferenceelca.weebly.com](http://erieconferenceelca.weebly.com), you will be able to view the worship services and events taking place at each church throughout our conference. When at the website's main page click on the three (3) horizontal bars at the upper left and this will give you the menu choices to view.



## Luther Memorial Academy

### Open House



Be sure to spread the word about our upcoming **LMA Open House on Sunday, February 5 from 1:00 – 3:30pm.** Luther Memorial Academy – a private school where students receive a superior education in a Christian atmosphere.

**LMA** With 46+ years of academic excellence, Luther Memorial Academy offers a safe and engaging setting in which all students can excel.

### LMA GeoBee Challenge

The annual LMA Geography Bee final competition was held on January 18, 2023, in the Chapel at Luther Memorial. Ten finalists participated in a very competitive event. All participants are to be congratulated on a job well done!



**School Champion: Isabella Alaniz**  
**Second Place: Samuel Gross**

#### Competitors

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Haven Reed  
Runner Up: Rilan Wiczorek

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jack Bartlett  
Runner Up: Mitchell Boyd

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Deacon Rivas  
Runner Up: Bobby Seelinger

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Joshua Bartlett  
Runners Up: Marcus Rogan & Jaida Fried

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Samuel Gross  
Runner Up: William Johnson

#### Next five highest scores:

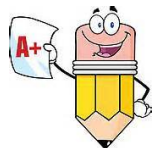
William Johnson 8<sup>th</sup>  
Bobby Seelinger 6<sup>th</sup>  
Alex Teets 6<sup>th</sup>, Bella Alaniz 8<sup>th</sup>, Malcolm Zeller 8<sup>th</sup>  
Alternate: Michael Gladney 8<sup>th</sup>

### Challenge 24

**Start to study!!** Students in grades 4-8 will test their math skills in February, competing in Challenge 24. The Challenge 24 math competition is coming up on February 24 and students are preparing for this yearly number “game”. Classroom champs will then compete with other classes’ champs to determine the finalists for the School Champion! The semi-final and final competition will be held on March 7.



### Report Card Day



Report cards were sent home with students on Monday, January 30.  
Be sure to check those bookbags.

### School Break



School will be closed:  
Friday, February 17 – Winter Break  
Monday, February 20 – President’s Day  
Have a wonderful four day weekend!

## Ash Wednesday Retreat

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Plans are being made to bring back our Ash Wednesday Retreat on February 22. Be sure to watch for further information.

## Read Across America Day

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**Friday, March 3**

One of our most anticipated days of the year is Read Across America Day; the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our students are always excited for the fun and surprises that are in store throughout the day.

## Lego League News

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LMA's Lego League team has been invited to a FIRST Lego League tournament at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts June 9-11, 2023. This is a huge opportunity for our team, and we are proud to represent LMA & Erie County.

In order to make this happen for our students, we need to raise \$845 per student, which means a total of \$5,915 for the team. Every little bit helps & all donations and sponsorships can be mailed or dropped off in the school office. Be sure to make checks payable to LMA & earmark them for Lego League.

If you know of an area business that would like to sponsor our Lego League, please share the information with the school office. Thank you.



## Kids Heart Challenge (American Heart Association)

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All classes will be learning more about their hearts and healthy habits to keep them strong for the whole month of February!

## Lion's Roar of Thanks

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Thank you to:

The King family for their donation of lots of water!  
Tha Seelinger family for lots and lots of books!

## Wish List

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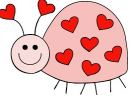




Every little bit helps LMA; thank you.

- Bottled waters – small and large
- Large orange cones for PE classes
- Cases of paper
- Paper napkins for lunchtime
- Monetary donations for Art & Music Supplies
- Monetary donations for the MJ Howell fund, which benefits teachers and staff



## FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:30am LMA Dismissal	2 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir <i>Happy Groundhog Day</i> 	3 10:00am Balance Class	4
5 8:15/10:30am Worship 11:30am Souper Bowl Tasting 1:00pm LMA Open House	6	7 11:00am Lenten Luncheon Meeting	8	9 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	10 6:30pm Club 50	11
12 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am Children's Church	13	14 12:00pm OWLS/Valentine Luncheon 3:00pm W/ELCA Board Meeting 6:00pm Council	15	16 3:00pm School Board 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	17 LMA Closed	18 
19 8:15/10:30am Worship LYO-Soup Sale 4:00pm ReCharge Cont. Service	20 <i>President's Day</i> Church Offices and LMA Closed 	21	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 12:00pm Worship 7:00pm Worship 	23 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	24	25
26 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:30am First Holy Communion Class	27 3:00pm Prayer Group	28 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	