

LUTHER MEMORIAL

C H U R C H



Luther Memorial Church • 225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106
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Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

Volume 53, Issue 5

June / July 2026

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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NO ROBE FOR A PREACHER? Pages 4-6

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AMERICA



Dear Luther Memorial,

As this is the newsletter for both June and July, I supposed I should wish you a Happy Semi-Sesquicentennial! Before I get to write you again we will celebrate the birthday of our nation-state. While we celebrate every year, this year is, of course, different. So, a very happy and healthy celebration to you.

As we approach the festivities, ELCA Worship has brought forward liturgical resources to celebrate on July 5 (the Sunday of Independence Day Weekend). Let me tell you, the reception has been mixed at best! There are many (admittedly most years myself included) who take the stand that Independence Day is not a liturgical festival, it is not a lectionary day, and it is not a celebration of the Church. There are others (admittedly this year myself) who recognize that this particular birthday is something we cannot let pass without recognizing it somehow as we gather on that weekend.

That being said, even in our celebrations and commemorations of the day, the weekend, the year, the life of our nation-state, we must be sure that we also recognize and celebrate all the more surely that we are part of something larger. Nation-states and nationalities, cultures and societies, peoples and languages and classes are all human constructions. We are—all of humanity—part of God's beloved creation and created for harmony with one another and with the wider creation as well. So we celebrate this momentous day, yes, but we remember and celebrate how it is a gift from God and subject to the sovereignty of God.

Perhaps more appropriately for some, and I think most compelling, is our ability (particularly in Pennsylvania) to celebrate some of the inextricable ways that Lutherans influenced life in colonial and revolutionary North America. In this issue you will find several articles about some Lutherans—particularly the Muhlenberg family—who were incredibly influential during the struggle for independence.

In it all, I am reminded how Luther talks about our relationship as Christians with the governments and powers under which we find ourselves. We are called as Christians to live in society and participating fully therein influenced by our faith—not to bring our faith into or to dominate over society itself. We are to pray for, respect, and even obey our rightful leaders **in so far as they live up to their responsibilities before God and the people.** That is the scriptural way to live. But it does not mean unquestioning obedience—Jesus doesn't even expect that of us, the government certainly should not. It means be sure that our rightful leaders are taking care of and working for the common good. Luther himself says that princes and kings (rightful leaders in his time and place) should place sheafs of wheat or loaves of bread on their shields, flags, insignia, and coats of arms.

(Continued on page 2)

In this way, he says, the leaders will be reminded of what their responsibility is: to care for the poor and oppressed, to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, etc. etc. The responsibility of our leaders, our nation-states, and ourselves is to care for the vulnerable and work for the common good.

So yes, let us celebrate our nation-state's birth. It is a momentous moment in the life of a particularly unique nation-state. But let us remember that all things are subject to Christ's sovereignty and our ultimate allegiance is to him—and by extension to one another regardless of nation-state or any other distinction. In this, I leave you with a hymn we will be singing on July 5. You can find this hymn online to listen to, "This is My Song." I'll let you know my favorite rendition is by Joan Baez:

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev' rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

*This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.*

Pastor Jay

Congratulations to Our Graduates

We applaud our youth as they complete milestones in their education. Please congratulate our graduates and wish them the best as they continue their education and new careers. They have worked hard and we are proud of their accomplishments.

A reception honoring our graduates will be held following the 10:30 service on Sunday, June 7. Please join us in the parlor to recognize and congratulate our graduates.



We wish the best to our graduating high school seniors:

ELY COONEY	Cathedral Prep High School	Penn State University <i>Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering</i>
CARLO CIMINO	Fairview High School	Slippery Rock University <i>Pre-law</i>
CHLOE MEUCCI	Ft. LeBoeuf High School	Plumber Apprenticeship
NOAH POST <i>Patricia Boyd's grandson</i>	Fairview High School	University of Wisconsin-Madison <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>
MAXWELL SPAULDING	Cathedral Prep High School	Slippery Rock University <i>Safety Management / Football Team</i>

Worshipping at Presque Isle

Congregational Worship Service
Sunday, June 28
Presque Isle
Shelter #1
(Near Bike Rentals)

10:30am – One Service Only
11:30am – Tureen Luncheon



Not everyone has a beach so close to home. Let's enjoy it together; join us for worship and a picnic lunch.

- Hotdogs, condiments, lemonade & coffee provided
- Please bring a dish to share
- Please bring your place setting
- Please bring your lawn chairs
- Stay for some games; bring some of your favorites along.

Christian Education

Faith Formation

Join us throughout the summer months for continued adult gatherings:



ADULT FORUM: The Lutheran Influence in 1776

Join us on Sundays **July 12, 19, and 26** for an exploration of how the Lutherans of the colonial and revolutionary period existed, worshiped, and participated (or not) in the Fight for Independence. This exploration will *mostly* focus on Pennsylvania Lutherans since this is where the most of them were congregated, but we will explore a little more broadly as well! We will gather in the Library between services.

BROWN BAG BIBLE

Meeting on Thursdays at 12:00 noon, Brown Bag Bible is an opportunity to grow more deeply in our understanding of scripture through more in-depth study. You are invited to bring a lunch. We gather in the Conference Room in the Pastoral Suite (Elevator to Floor 4). **B³ will gather each Thursday in throughout the summer** as we continue with a study on the book of Revelation.

BIBLE AFTER DARK

We gather on the **FIRST TUESDAYS** of the Month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row for conversation, fellowship, and mutual support among the saints! Make BAD part of your summer outings and **join us at Calamari's on June 2 and July 7**. We will be exploring *Belonging*, a study of the Woman at the Well by Karoline Lewis.

ADULT FORUM

Mark your calendars for Adult Forum in July! *Revolution and Reformation: Lutherans at the Time of Independence*. We will join in the library between the services July 12, 19, and 26 to explore some important Lutherans and how Lutheranism had an impact during the struggle for independence. Sundays in July (except the 5th) 9:15-10:15am in the Library.

Confirmation at Camp Lutherlyn



Luther Memorial Church's confirmation class will be attending Confirmation Camp at Lutherlyn from June 15 to June 20. Luther Memorial youth join together with other congregational youth from the Northwest Pennsylvania Synod. Lutherlyn is a ministry of the Northwestern PA Synod and is sustained by the offerings of so many wonderful servants. We also wanted to give a word of thanks to the parents who have encouraged their youth to attend and to so many wonderful sponsors for our youth to attend camp.

Thank you to those who have donated to help our youth attend this year's camp. Luther Memorial continues to be blessed by warm and generous hearts.

Joan Chalikian
Catherine Snider

Judie Harrison-Means
Women of the ELCA of
Luther Memorial

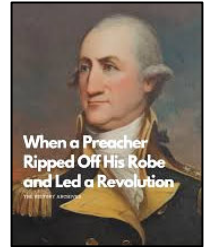
Martha & Tom Klomp

From Pastor Jay

As we approach the semi sesquicentennial of the United States, we will over the next few months share ways that the Lutheran Church in the colonial and early revolutionary periods participated—sometimes revolutionarily, sometimes loyally to the crown—in the life of the early United States. Most of these stories take place in Pennsylvania.

A Lutheran-Anglican Pastor's Revolutionary Sermon

*The Rev. Peter Muhlenberg was a son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the first licensed Lutheran pastor in North America. Even though his father was a foundational Lutheran pastor, Peter was ordained an Anglican pastor. The reason for this is simple: Anglican priests were paid by taxes (state church, after all). All other religions, while tolerated and welcomed, paid for their own clergy **in addition to the taxes they paid for the Anglican clergy**. In order to save his (mostly) German farming community from paying for him twice, he was ordained an Anglican priest. Of note, not only did he have a famous (in Lutheran circles) father, but his brother Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg was the first Speaker of the House of Representatives.*



The history of the American Revolution is rife with heroic tales and amazing myths of patriotic American heroes that offer inspiring and entertaining stories. Sadly however, many of these stories have little basis in fact or documentation to support their occurrence. Some are completely fabricated while others are the result of misreported or misunderstood accounts. Thankfully, there are also plenty of inspiring accounts and stories that, although perhaps exaggerated or embellished over generations, have a significant degree of historical truth to them. One such account is that of the Farewell Sermon of the Fighting Parson of Shenandoah Valley, Peter Muhlenberg.

The traditional version of Peter Muhlenberg's farewell sermon, first shared by Muhlenberg's great nephew, Henry A. Muhlenberg in his 1849 biography of the general, goes as follows. In mid-January 1776, Muhlenberg, who was a delegate in the Fourth Virginia Convention in Williamsburg, was appointed by the Convention to command the 8th Virginia Regiment. Muhlenberg rushed home to Dunmore County in northwest Virginia to tend to his affairs and begin to raise his regiment, and upon his return word spread quickly among his parish that he was to give a farewell sermon on the next Sabbath. Muhlenberg's parishioners packed the church in Woodstock on the appointed day, January 21, with many standing outside in the cold to hear their beloved minister. When Muhlenberg arrived and ascended the pulpit, he wore his black minister's robe. He began his sermon by recounting the many wrongs inflicted upon the colonists by Great Britain and reminded his parishioners of the worthiness of the cause for which they all struggled in 1776 and for which he was about to surrender his alter. He then declared, "that, in the language of holy writ, there was a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times had passed away . . . that there was a time to fight, and that time had now come!"

Muhlenberg then removed his robe and stood before the congregation in his military uniform, an inspiration to all. Nearly 300 men enlisted in Muhlenberg's regiment as a result of his sermon, according to this version, and a legend was born.

Henry Muhlenberg, the author of this account, assured his readers in 1849 that "numerous traditional accounts" of what transpired that day still existed throughout the Woodstock community, although he confessed that "of the matter of the sermon, various accounts remain." He insisted, however, that all concurred "in attributing to [the sermon] great potency in arousing the military ardour of the people, and unite in describing its conclusion."

Although this version of events remains by far the most popular and most believed account of what happened at Peter Muhlenberg's farewell sermon, it was not the first account in print. In 1823, Dr. James Thacher, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, published his extensive journal of the war and included a different version of Muhlenberg's farewell sermon. He wrote:

General Muhlenberg was a minister of a parish in Virginia, but participating in the spirit of the times, exchanged his clerical profession for that of a soldier. Having in his pulpit inculcated the principles of liberty and the cause of his country, he found no difficulty in enlisting a regiment of soldiers, and he was appointed their commander. He entered his pulpit with his sword and cockade, preached his farewell sermon, and the next day marched at the head of his regiment to join the army, and he does honor to the military profession.

Thacher's journal entry is dated November 3, 1778, in Fishkill, New York. Thacher recorded that on that day he chanced upon an entertainment of forty some officers hosted by Muhlenberg. It is impossible to say from whom Thacher learned the details of Muhlenberg's sermon; perhaps the general himself shared the story, or perhaps he heard it second hand from another officer, but the fact that he recorded the details in 1778, just two years after they reportedly occurred and nearly seventy-five years before Henry Muhlenberg's much more popular account, gives Thacher's version some credibility.

Thacher's account is certainly not definitive, however. He suggests that Muhlenberg's appointment to command the 8th Virginia Regiment was the result of his having "no difficulty in enlisting a regiment of soldiers," which is factually inaccurate. Muhlenberg's appointment occurred on January 12, 1776, weeks before anyone in the Shenandoah Valley was even aware that the 8th Virginia Regiment was recruiting. Thacher possibly did not intend to imply that Muhlenberg's commission was the result of his recruiting success, but his journal entry suggests that it was.

Both Muhlenberg's account of the sermon seventy five years after the fact and Thacher's account two years after the event agree that Muhlenberg wore a uniform in the pulpit on the day in question, although only Henry Muhlenberg noted the uniform was initially covered by Muhlenberg's church robe. Just what that uniform looked like has never been definitively established. It has traditionally been portrayed in images of the affair as a continental officer's blue regimental coat with red or buff facings because that is the uniform most often associated with American officers of the American Revolution. While there is no doubt that Peter Muhlenberg wore such a uniform coat during most of his seven years of military service and that he even may have procured one such coat prior to the sermon, it is much more likely that the uniform he wore in early 1776 for his final sermon was a fringed linen hunting shirt with a sash and sword. This was the prescribed uniform of Virginia's regular troops of 1775 and 1776.

As for the sermon itself, both accounts acknowledge that Muhlenberg fiercely defended the American cause. Thacher offers no specifics as to what Muhlenberg actually said, while Henry Muhlenberg offers very eloquent words which have been passed down in various forms for nearly two centuries.

Where the two accounts differ significantly is the date on which the sermon was delivered and the impact it had on Muhlenberg's parishioners. Thacher's observation that Muhlenberg marched to join the army the day after his farewell sermon means he likely delivered it in mid-March 1776 (probably Sunday, March 17), for Muhlenberg departed Woodstock on March 21 and was in Williamsburg on April 3 to receive his colonel's commission from the Virginia Committee of Safety. The probability that Muhlenberg's farewell sermon occurred in March is supported by the fact that the Beckford Parish register records that Peter Muhlenberg continued to baptize and marry parishioners up until his departure from the Shenandoah Valley in March. It is not a stretch to assume that if he continued in those activities, he likely continued delivering sermons until his departure as well. This would thus align more with Thacher's account that he led the troops eastward after his sermon.

Another point that supports Thacher's account is that Muhlenberg's regiment consisted of ten companies from eight different counties spanning hundreds of miles and that the company commanders (captains) and their lieutenants were primarily responsible for recruiting the 68 men for each company, not the regimental field officers. When one considers that all of Dunmore County contributed at most 140 troops for two companies to the 8th Virginia, it is hard to imagine nearly 300 troops enlisted on the same day in Woodstock after Muhlenberg's sermon in late January (as Henry Muhlenberg contends), especially as it appears that the bulk of troops for the regiment were recruited in February and March 1776. What is more likely is that hundreds of troops from several companies of the 8th Virginia assembled in Woodstock in March in preparation for their march east and they were thus there when Peter Muhlenberg delivered his farewell sermon.

We will likely never know with certainty what occurred or even what was said on the day that Peter Muhlenberg delivered his farewell sermon to his congregation in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. What we do know is that the former minister of Beckford Parish in Dunmore County became colonel of the 8th Virginia Regiment in early 1776 and, over the course of seven years of service for his country, rose to the rank of major general in the Continental army. From such service undoubtedly comes plenty of grist for other inspiring accounts of the American Revolution.

A Lutheran Pastor's Conundrum at the Revolution

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was the first licensed Lutheran pastor in North America. While born in Halle and supported mostly by funding from the missionary board of that German city, in order to be licensed to serve in the colonies Muhlenberg needed to have the approval of the King's Chaplain – an Anglican. That being said, since King George II & III were part of the Hanoverian dynasty who themselves traced their lineage to Lutheran Germany, the approval was not hard.

However, this role as pastor in colonial and revolutionary colonies while also subject quite directly to the King's Chaplain let Muhlenberg in a unique position during the Revolution. About it he variously writes:

...it is easy to proclaim: come to allegiance, swear loyalty anew, and you shall find grace and pardon. On the other side, however, it is also pro- claimed: Beware of a power that breaks solemnly sworn compacts, that makes you slaves or serfs by cunning and violence, that binds you in all cases whatsoever, that feeds idlers and rakes with your property gained by your sweat and blood, and desires to rob you of the rights and liberties bestowed upon your children and children's children by God and former crowned heads...

...Although the American cause has been precarious, adverse, and gloomy, as if decline and collapse were unavoidable, a mightier, in- visible Hand has intervened and unexpectedly helped.

(in 1783 at the end of the War for Independence) ...Now one can, of course, reasonably conclude from this success that it was the will of the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth that there should be independence, and not otherwise. But whether this was God's active or passive will, His gracious or His permissive will, only the future will show, according as men use independence well or abuse it.

The Lutheran Influence in the Constitution

St. Michael's Church was founded and built on the corner of 4th Street and Market Street in Philadelphia. It was one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in the colonies. When Henry Melchior Muhlenberg first arrived in Pennsylvania to take his charge, St. Michael's was one of the four congregations he was called to be pastor of. He found the congregation aimless and often questionable in how they were run. During his tenure, not only did they build (and dismantle) a brick edifice for worship, but they wrote a Constitution for their congregation to which all members ascribed.

This model of constitutional governance still exists in the ELCA. Each congregation, each synod, and the church-wide organization all have constitutions and bylaws which govern how they run and how they are covenanted together. We have one at Luther Memorial.

This Constitution, being written just two blocks from the Pennsylvania State House (now called Independence Hall) and ascribed to by at least a few of the men (sorry women, you weren't invited to the party yet) who sat in those halls ended up being incredibly influential in our nation's history. The current Constitution of the United States is based largely (if not solely) on the Constitution of St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Obviously much of the content is different, we are not a theocracy and the Constitution – while civically sacred – is not a religious text. However, the concept of a Constitution, of rules by which a people would hold themselves purely by covenant and not by Divine or Monarchical edict and enforcement, remains our rule of law in the United States.

And it was all the construction of a German Lutheran pastor who was trying to keep his congregation in order with one another and with their shared mission for the common good in Philadelphia.

Begin Your Journey Today!

Beginning Thursday, June 18
10:00am
Free



No Strings Attached! Learn how to better manage blood sugars, blood pressure, cholesterol and weight with nutrition. The National Diabetes Prevention Program will offer this free one year "journey" beginning Thursday, June 18 at 10:00am in our parlor. One hour sessions will be

held weekly for 3 months, bi-weekly for 3 months and monthly for 6 months. Please join us on Thursday, June 18 for the free Discovery Session when information will be shared to learn more about the program. Delicious meals and free giveaways will be included throughout the one year journey. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your health. Please RSVP to Diabetes Prevention Program of The Sight center at 814-455-0995, opt. 4 or contact Norma in our church office.

Youth (and Family) Events

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, June 9
5:30 - 7:00pm

If the school year has been a bit hectic and there wasn't a chance to attend an LIA event, never fear, there's more coming this summer. LIA is open to families and those looking to help with small hands on service projects. And it's a great opportunity to take care of those service hours many youth need.

Be sure to check the bulletins for surprises all summer. LIA will meet Tuesday, June 9 and more events will pop up throughout the summer. Gatherings are held at the beach, ice cream stands, parks and other fun locations. If you are not familiar with the BAND App, contact Sarah Prylinski as outings are also posted on the app. We're looking forward to see everyone this summer!

Women of the ELCA

W/ELCA Picnic

Tuesday, June 2
W/ELCA Picnic
5:00pm
Church Parlor

It's time to kick off summer with our annual picnic supper. It's always a fun evening!

- Main course will be provided
- You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share
- Special drink will be provided; please bring your desired beverage
- Table service provided (plates/silverware)



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

We'll meet for our June gathering on
Tuesday, June 2 at 12:00 noon
Church Parlor



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

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.



Summer Office Hours



The Church Office will be open
Monday, June 8 - Monday, August 24
8:30am - 2:00pm.

Office Hours on Fridays will be
8:30am - 12:00 noon.

Spic & Span

Carpets and floors will be cleaned throughout the church and school during the week of July 27.

Please contact the church office if you plan to stop in, as some areas of the building will be inaccessible. Thank you.



Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



Gather your yarn, find a nice spot under a tree and pass the time knitting or crocheting. But be sure to join us in the parlor to visit with friends the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to work on your favorite yarn projects. We meet from 10:00am - 12:00 noon and would love to share the morning with you. Mark it on your calendars for the summer.

June 9 and June 23 July 14 and July 28 August 11 and August 25

If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476 or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221 with any questions. Please let us know if you are low on yarn and some can be dropped off to you.

OWLS

We're hoping the rain is behind us and we've got sun and warmth for the summer. Add these fun events to your calendars and join us!

SUMMER PICNIC
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
11:00AM - 1:00PM



Tasty grilled hotdogs and hamburgers will hit the spot! Bring a side dish to share and enjoy some time together. There may even be a surprise or two. We will gather in the parlor. See you there!

Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 833-0476, by Wednesday, June 10. Thank you.

VICTORIAN PRINCESS CRUISE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
BOARDING BEGINS: 11:15-11:30AM (NO LATER)



Sail the waters of Presque Isle with us and enjoy a delicious lunch. Cost per person is \$44.

RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 833-0476, by Wednesday, July 15, with payment.



Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise



Sunday, July 12
1:00 - 4:00pm
Luther Memorial Church
(Rain or Shine)

Join us for the 10th Annual Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise and bring your family and car enthusiast friends!

- All Makes, Models & Years Welcome
- No Registration Fees & Free Admission

Participating cars are able to park beginning at 12:00pm.

Dash Plaques and Goodie Bags for first 100 cars

Car Blessing ✨ Kid's Choice Awards

- Dozens of cars for car enthusiasts
- Basket Raffle
- Entertainment by Magic Steve
- Music by DJ Bill Mason

- A Waffle Miracle Food Truck
- Bake Sale
- 50-50 Raffle

✨ Proceeds benefit Shriner's Children's Erie and Luther Memorial's Youth (LYO) ✨

June Birthdays

Carter O'Leary 6-1
 Jennifer Young 6-2
 Jan Birkner 6-2
 Mark Cadden 6-2
 Tyler Keller 6-3
 Aimee Huston 6-3
 Doug Blair 6-4
 Martha Stickner 6-5
 John Evans 6-6
 Tara Hokaj 6-6
 Brian Carlson 6-6
 Stuart Satur 6-7
 Dave Birkner 6-7
 Rich Hessinger 6-7
 C. Noelle Partusch 6-8
 Jesse Graffius 6-8
 Bethany Fried 6-8
 Marshall Boyd 6-9
 Nancy Rogan 6-9
 Cindy Hedlund 6-10



Brent Young 6-10
 Ava Fracassi 6-11
 Diane Giannelli 6-11
 Dave Lintelman 6-12
 Carol Nicotra 6-12
 Rykiah Rogan 6-13
 Doug Chaffee 6-13
 Andrew Bebko 6-14
 Regan DeDionisio 6-15
 Molly Gaber 6-16
 Robert Davidson 6-16
 Elizabeth Cowan 6-16
 Sally McAfee 6-16
 Linda Swanson 6-16
 David Ruler 6-16
 Zandra Shaffer 6-17
 Maureen Montero 6-17
 Ed Hokaj 6-18
 Cecilia Ulrich 6-18
 Katie Schlecht 6-19



Sue Cappelletty 6-20
 Mara Fromyer 6-21
 Jackson Young 6-21
 Ellie Young 6-21
 Grace Graffius 6-22
 Tanner Galloway 6-23
 Juliet Woodward 6-23
 Virginia Long 6-23
 Karen Lundwall 6-24
 Karen Parsh 6-25
 Allison Brown 6-26
 Dorothy Youngman 6-26
 Mary Laver 6-26
 Donovan Rogan 6-27
 Chase Rowland 6-27
 Heather Pirschel 6-29
 Sally Allen 6-29
 Timothy Houston 6-30
 Tyler Noble 6-30

July Birthdays

Mattix McCall 7-1
 Ann Jensen 7-1
 Cameron Durian 7-2
 Heidi Heilman 7-2
 Tara Durian 7-3
 Carlo Cimino 7-3
 Jeana Williams 7-4
 Bill Galloway 7-4
 Laura Beth Kraut 7-6
 Stephanie Ames 7-7
 Jon Brown 7-8
 Zoe Carolus 7-8
 Dale Carullo 7-8
 Cynthia Treiber 7-8
 Robert Maas 7-8
 Jane Tell 7-8
 Amanda Warren 7-9
 Lorraine Johnson 7-10
 Stephanie Carolus 7-10



Nicole Lippert 7-12
 Brody Warren 7-12
 James Woodward 7-13
 Luka Hokaj 7-13
 Emmett Andrae 7-15
 Brian Hubbard 7-17
 Amanda Jo Graffius 7-17
 Maggie Jensen 7-17
 Julie Ditz 7-17
 Greg Kern 7-17
 Katherine Ulrich 7-17
 David Morphy 7-17
 Sarah Davis 7-18
 Richard Seward 7-19
 Bill Steff 7-20
 Elizabeth Wolf 7-20
 Rebecca Burling 7-21
 Nick Lang 7-21
 Christine Narusewicz 7-22



R. J. Treiber 7-22
 Madeline Satur 7-22
 Jeanette Blair 7-23
 Elvin Montero 7-24
 Ezra Montroy 7-24
 Steve Durian 7-25
 Jeff Will 7-27
 Kristen Lawson 7-27
 Greg Parsh 7-28
 Rob Cooney 7-28
 Noah Montroy 7-29
 Pat Mitchell 7-29
 Lennon Andrae 7-29
 Michael Patterson 7-29
 Drake Howell 7-30
 Carla Andrejewski 7-31
 Tucker Galloway 7-31

June & July Sunshine Birthdays

Dorothy Youngman 6/26
 1856 Lakeside Drive
 Erie, PA 16511

Laura Beth Kraut 7/6
 321 East Avenue
 Erie, PA 16507

Jeanette Blair 7/23
 4115 Sassafras Street
 Erie, PA 16508



May 2026 Council Meeting



1. **Council Meeting:** Minutes of the April 14, 2026 council meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Communications:** Jonathan Ulrich has accepted a position out of state and family will be relocating this summer. He submitted a letter regarding his move.
3. **Pastor's Report:** Bimonthly meetings following worship for confirmands are combined with Faith Lutheran in Harborcreek. School Administrator, Michelle Thom, and Pastor Jay reviewed safety plans that are part of the money utilized from the safety grant. LMA graduation is Sunday, June 7. A few new members will be joining. A baptism is scheduled for Sunday, May 24. Barb Dennison and Brian Davis will represent Luther Memorial at the NWPA Synod Assembly June 4-6.
4. **Property Committee** - A meeting will be held prior to the June council meeting to discuss the use of rental space.
5. **Fuller Bike Tour** - We will host the group July 25 and July 26. The group departs early morning July 27.
6. **Church Directory** - Pictures are being taken each Sunday in May on the 5th floor.
7. **Boiler Repair** - Continuing to wait until the weather breaks.
8. **Organ** - Cantor Bryan Timm offered a Temple Talk on Sunday, May 3. An opportunity to ask questions about the organ and the Organ Committee's plans was offered during the Second Sunday Social on Sunday, May 10.
9. **Ordination** - The Ordination Service for Michael Snider will be held Saturday, June 20; time TBD.
10. **Ascension Service** - The Erie Lutheran Conference service will be held Thursday, May 14 at 7:00pm at Luther Memorial.
11. **Presque Isle Beach Service** - The 10:30am service will be held Sunday, June 28 at Shelter 1, near the bike rentals (Runner's Pavilion). The early service will not be held.
12. **Confirmation Camp** - Currently four (4) students will be taking part at Camp Lutherlyn. There is the possibility of one (1) more attending.
13. **Treasurer's Report** - YTD income \$162,404 in actual vs. \$153,913 budget. A CD came to term and UBS was able to reinvest @ 3.9% for 6 months. A spreadsheet was shared outlining the Luther Memorial expenses that are covered from the rental spaces at Renew Erie. Audit was completed by Pat Young reporting that everything is aligned and correct. On motion, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.
14. **Committee Listing** - A listing of all committees, past and present, was reviewed. Conversation can begin regarding adding new people to committees, sharing information of committees to be sure there are not duplicative services. Ideas were touched on such as how to share information about the various committees with the congregation; Ministry Fair, tureen luncheon, etc.
15. **Church Council Replacements** - Terms will be coming due for seven (7) members. Emma Chaffee's term will be finished. The following may re-up: Rob Cooney, Les Fobes, Jonathan Gaber, Tom Klomp, Nick Lang, Patrick Cimino. Jonathan Ulrich will be moving in July.
16. **LMA Administrator** - A contract has been signed for a new 7th grade teacher. Interviewing for 1st and 5th grade teachers.
17. **Council Meeting** - The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Don MacGregor who died Saturday, May 9, 2026.
Our prayers are with his sons, Chris, David and Rob and their families.

Thank You

Dear Friends,



I am so thankful for the cards, and all of the food that was gifted to me, and continued prayers for me to get well after my fall. Each card I read brought such joy, and I am grateful. I'm forever appreciative of your kindness.

Donna Sedelmyer

Dear Luther Memorial Congregation:

Spring is a season of new beginnings – and because of supporters like you, that's exactly what we get to offer children and families every single day.

On behalf of the Bethesda Foundation for Children Board of Directors and the entire Bethesda Lutheran Services team, thank you for your generous gift of \$135 in support of the Trinity Center. What you have given goes far beyond a dollar amount – it is hope made real for a child who needs it.

Every day, countless youth in our community face uncertainty – navigating trauma, instability, and challenges no child should face alone. Because of partners like you, Bethesda is there to offer stability, care, and a place to belong. Thanks to your support, we reach over 9,000 children and families each year through residential care, mental health treatment, foster care, and parenting support.



Thank you for choosing to stand with us. Because of you, no child has to face tomorrow alone.

With gratitude,

George R. Trauner, Chief Executive Officer

Dear friends of Bethany,

Thank you for your clothing and household donation, 250 pounds to Bethany Outreach Center and 30 pounds food. As you know, deserving families and individuals in our community go without proper food, shelter, and essential medical care every day due to a variety of factors, including low wages, loss of employment, injuries, illness, age, domestic violence, or homelessness. While all of us are susceptible to hard times, children and the elderly are most at risk and they make up a large portion of the clients that we serve.



With the generous support of people like you, we are positioned to help many families and individuals not only meet their essential daily needs, but to work towards hope for life change.

For more information on how your donation is helping to make a difference in the lives of so many in our community, we invite you to visit our website at www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org. You can also find information there on our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you again, and we look forward to your continued support.

Yours in a better community,

Mabel Howard, Executive Director

Prayers

Many of those that we keep in our prayers are found in the weekly bulletin. The below are loved ones that we keep on our extended prayer list for continued healing.

**BELOW PLEASE FIND THOSE THAT ARE ON OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY:**



Abby & Madison
Bev
Bill
Doug Blum
Michael Collins
Kate Collins
Jean Coburn

Suzie Hosterman
Naomi & John Howard
Carol Johnson
Laura Beth Kraut
Tom Kraut
Bea Leemhuis
Lorraine Melms

Sam Ruma
Gwen Smith
Carolyn & Viktor Soder
Elise VanDamia
Ben Young
Dorothy Youngman

Luther Memorial Academy



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

A huge lion's roar and congratulations to our graduating class of 2026. We wish our 8th grade graduates the best as they continue their high school education. We look forward to hearing about their continued accomplishments! Well Done!

ALLISON MAIKO	Cathedral Prep High School
JACK BARTLETT	Cathedral Prep High School
MADALYN BOGDANSKI	Mercyhurst Prep High School
MITCHELL BOYD	NW PA Collegiate Academy
ETHAN BURTON	McDowell High School
WILLIAM GRENAWAY	Cathedral Prep High School
CARTER HOLLAND	NW PA Collegiate Academy
JAHEIM JONES	Cathedral Prep High School
KAMDYN KESSLER	NW PA Collegiate Academy
JEDAIAH PRUZENSKI	Cathedral Prep High School
ELIJAH WASHINGTON	NW PA Collegiate Academy
RILAN WIECZOREK	Cathedral Prep High School



Celebration Time!

Friday, June 5

GRADE 8 AWARDS
ASSEMBLY
1:00pm - Main Church
Families are welcome
to attend.



Friday, June 5

GRADUATION BANQUET
6:00pm
GRADUATION DANCE
6:30 - 8:30pm
The dance is sponsored by the PTL

Tickets:
8th Grade: Free
6th & 7th Grade Students: \$5
Guests: \$8

Sunday, June 7

BACCALAUREATE AND GRADUATION
Main Church
3:00pm
Reception following provided by PTL,
students and families of the
Class of 2027.

**Students are to report to the Chapel at
2:30 for the class picture.**

Our graduates will continue their celebration on Monday, June 8 with their class trip.

Kindergarten Celebration and Award Ceremony

**Monday, June 8
1:00pm
Church Parlor**

Kindergarten will enjoy an end-of-year celebration and promotion ceremony. All parents and families are invited to attend.



Last Day!!

Tuesday, June 9 is our last day of school. The School Awards Presentations for grades 1 - 7 will be held in the main church at 9:45am.

School dismissal will be at 11:00am and then it's off to Waldameer for our school picnic. Stop by Shelter Train #2 sometime for a snack. We will be taking a **group picture at 1:00pm.**



Geography Bee

Our Geography Bee was held May 1.
Congratulations to our champs:
Braxton - 7th grade winner
Nylah - 7th grade runner up



Moving Up Day

All students will have the opportunity to spend a class period in their next grade on **Monday, June 8**. Students will travel to the homeroom they will be in next year and spend a class period. Teachers will be able to share with the students some of the exciting things they will be learning.



Fieldtrips

The middle school end of the year trip was on Thursday, May 21. Their excursions were to Logistic Plus and Elevate Jump Park.

Grades 1 and 2 have two wonderful trips planned:

- Tuesday, June 2 - Bayfront Bicentennial Tower
- Thursday, June 4 - Children's Museum



Pizza with the Principal & Pastor

Our character trait for the month of April was being **CONSTRUCTIVE**; positive actions with and for others and encouragement. Our Bible verse for the month; 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Congratulations to our students!

Our May character trait is **COURAGEOUS**; being brave when things get difficult. Our Bible verse for the month; Joshua 1:9.

In June we're looking forward to the character trait of **ACHIEVEMENT**; completing something successfully, using your own effort and skill. Walk **BRAVELY** into the future!



Digital Dozen Fundraiser

A very SWEET way to support LMA. Digital Dozen Certificates are valid for 1 Original Glazed Dozen and will be sent directly to you via email. These can be redeemed at your convenience at any Krispy Kreme location.



- Payment can be made with cash or check to Luther Memorial Academy PTL, or Venmo (@Paula-Noble-17, last four of phone is 5030).
- Certificates will be emailed after June 9, 2026. Email address must be provided to receive certificate(s).
- You may use the below order form or pick one up in the school office.

ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS TO SEND CERTIFICATE TO: _____

TOTAL (NUMBER OF DIGITAL DOZENS): _____ x \$12 = \$ _____

Thank you for supporting Luther Memorial Academy PTL!

Financial Aid

If financial aid is needed for the 2026-2027 school year, it is imperative that the application form be sent to the school office as soon as possible. Please contact Mrs. Thom or Mrs. Fried.

Registration

Registration is currently open for the 2026-2027 school year. Reserve your spot with a \$100 registration fee. Additionally, current families that refer a new student to LMA will receive \$500 off next year's tuition!



Tuition Help



New next year! Family Volunteer Tuition Credit Program allows families to earn a \$250 tuition credit by volunteering at approved school events and activities. Check with our school office for more information.

School Summer Office Hours



- The school office will be open through **Friday, June 26** from 9:00am - 1:00pm.
- Office hours will be by appointment during July.
- The office will reopen on **Monday, August 3** for the remainder of the summer from 9:00am - 1:00pm.
- First day of school is **Tuesday, August 25**.

Summer Boot Camp

Keep your children excited about learning at our Summer Boot Camp! It is a wonderful opportunity for incoming and current Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students. Attend for one week or two; Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19 and Monday, June 22 - Friday, June 26.

Summer Boot Camp is open to the public. You do not need to be registered at LMA

- Introduce students to teachers, classrooms and daily routines;
- Build skills for school success
- Ease anxieties about starting in the fall
- The opportunity to meet new friends and have lots of fun

Drop off: 8:00am - 8:15am

Pick up: 11:15am - 11:30am

\$135 per child for one week OR \$250 for both weeks

After care is available until 4:30pm for an additional charge

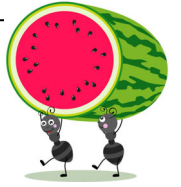
- Register by May 29 by contacting the school office at 814-454-0106, ext. 222 or Mrs. Thom, Principal, at mthom@lmaerie.org



Back to School Picnic

**Wednesday, August 12
4:00 – 7:00pm**

See all your friends, have some tasty picnic food and play some games at our Back to School Picnic. This is a great way to kick off our 2026-2027 school year.



Head down to Presque Isle at the Rotary Pavilion and join in all the fun!

Parent Orientation Night



All parents are asked to attend the Parent Orientation Night on **Thursday, August 20 at 5:30pm** in the main church. Individual classroom meetings will be announced and parents will be notified soon.

Save the Date

Our 2026-2027 school year will begin with fun and games – the LMA Block Party will be held **Saturday, September 12 from 12:00 noon – 4:00pm**. Bring the whole family and enjoy the afternoon!



Wish List

Every little bit helps LMA; thank you.






- Bottled water – small and large
- Cases of paper
- Plates & napkins
- Monetary donations for Art & Music Supplies
- Monetary donations for the MJ Howell fund, which benefit teachers and staff

Be sure to check out the LMA School Newsletter for more great things happening. Great information at your fingertips all the time! Just scan the QR code or to go:



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/IFORHQj/ewssignup>



JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:30pm Pizza w/Principal & Pastor 3:15pm Prayer Group	2 5:00pm W/ELCA Picnic	3 	4 <i>Synod Assembly</i> 6:00pm Family Gathering	5 <i>Synod Assembly</i> 1:00pm Gr. 8 Awards Assembly 6:00pm Graduation Banquet 6:30pm Gr. 8 Dance	6 <i>Synod Assembly</i> 10:00am Quilting
7 8:15/10:30am Worship 3:00pm Gr. 8 Baccalaureate & Graduation	8 LMA Move-up Day 1:00pm Kdg. Celebration	9 10:00pm Magic Fingers Grace Group 11:00am LMA Dismissal/Last Day of School 5:30pm LIA 6:00pm Council	10	11	12 	13 10:00am MacGregor Funeral Service
14 8:15/10:30am Worship Confirmation Camp Departure	15 Conf. Camp 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp 	16 Conf. Camp 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp	17 Conf. Camp 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp 11:00am OWLS 4:15pm School Board	18 Conf. Camp 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp 10:00am Diabetes Prevention Program	19 Conf. Camp ends 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp	20 10:00am Quilting 4:30pm Michael Snider Ordination & Reception
21 8:15/10:30am Worship	22 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp	23 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp	24 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp 6:00pm Worship & Music	25 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp	26 8:00am LMA Summer Boot Camp	27 
28 10:30am Worship & Picnic at Presque Isle/Shelter #1 8:15am service not held	29 	30 10:00am Pericope				

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 8:15/10:30am Worship	6	7	8 	9	10	11
12 8:15/10:30am Worship 1:00pm Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise	13	14 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:30pm LIA 6:00pm Council	15	16	17 	18 10:00am Quilting
19 8:15/10:30am Worship	20 	21	22 11:15am OWLS/Victorian Princess	23	24	25 Hosting Fuller Bike Adventure
26 8:15/10:30am Worship Hosting Fuller Bike Adventure	27 Floors & Carpet Cleaning	28 Floors & Carpet Cleaning 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	29 Floors & Carpet Cleaning	30 Floors & Carpet Cleaning	31 Floors & Carpet Cleaning	