

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 53, Issue 2

March 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

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES	Pages 2-3
HOLY WEEK SERVICES	Page 4
CONCERT & CULTURAL SERIES	Page 5
EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM	Page 6
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	Page 7
CRAFT SHOW	Page 9
LMA NEWS	Pages 13-14

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Dear Luther Memorial,



Lion and Lambs. Lambs and Lions. Last year when we were just beginning our Lenten Season the first week of March, I wrote about the old adage of March: "In like a lion and out like a lamb." I also wrote that when I was in school at St. Matthew's I learned that sometimes in Erie March is more likely "in like a lamb and out like a lion."

Regardless of how this month comes and goes, I've been thinking about these lions and lambs. Perhaps it is because we gather on the first week in March to celebrate Luther Memorial Academy and the ministry of Lutheran Schools across the country. You are invited to come to the worship service on Monday, March 1 at 1:00pm when we will share in Holy Communion to kick off the week of celebration. You can also stay for our SOUPPPPPer Bowl competition (particularly if you vote for me to get a three-peat of the Golden Ladle). It is such a blessing that we are able to reach out to our community with the ministry of Luther Memorial Academy and our Luther Lion families—the only K-8 ELCA school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

But we also encounter the Lamb throughout this season. While we gather around the Lamb of God every time we gather for worship, it is perhaps during the season of Lent that I find myself drawn to this imagery for Jesus. The "Lamb of God" was not an image that sprang out of thin air. The Lamb of God is connected to the sacrifices offered in the Temple into the time of Jesus. In many ways, the Lamb of God could even be related to the "scapegoat", a literal goat onto which the sins of a community were cast and then driven out of the town to its death on behalf of the community. John the Baptist, though, is where we get this particular phrase and title for Jesus from: "Behold the Lamb of God," he declares to his disciples when we see Jesus walking by. And then he continues, "Who takes away the sin of the world."

And we've been singing about it ever since.

Every year when we gather for the Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil we hear from John's Gospel. Interestingly, in John's telling of the story, the Last Supper is distinctly NOT a Passover meal. Rather, it takes place on the *night before the Feast of Unleavened Bread*. In this way, when Jesus is crucified, he is killed at the same time the Passover lambs would be killed for the feasting. This connection to the story of the Exodus does not come with the connection of the removal of sin, or even of sacrifice, but rather the death of the lamb for Passover—and its blood—was a sign of death passing over the people of God. And in this season as we journey all the more directly to that death that is life, to the Lamb whose blood signs over us for death to pass over, to the Lamb that was slain and who now reigns over even death itself, in this season we remember and give thanks for our Lion-like Lamb whose death is our life and into whose abundant life we are called to live.

Pastor Jay

Lent Wednesdays Study Series

Wednesdays in Lent; February 25-March 25
 Worship: 12:00-12:30pm(ish)
 Lunch: 12:30-1:00pm(ish)
 Study: 1:00pm

After the interest shared last year for our study series on Dietrich Bonhoeffer during our Lent Wednesday gatherings, we will again share in a study series following lunch on Wednesdays in Lent. Worship will be from 12:00-12:30pm(ish), lunch from 12:30-1:00pm(ish), and then study at 1:00pm.

This year, our study series will be *understanding Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*. This is the latest Social Statement of ELCA ratified at the 2025 Church-wide Assembly. During our series we will look at the process of Social Statements in the ELCA (did you know there's 12 of them?), how they come to be and how they are ratified, what authority they carry within our church, and then specifically at this most recent Statement.

FEBRUARY 25

Week 1: Foundational Teaching: God Acts for the Well-being of All Through Civic Life

MARCH 4

Week 2: God Calls All People to Robust Civic Participation

MARCH 11

Week 3: Assessing the U.S. Constitutional Form of Government

MARCH 18

Week 4: Religion and the First Amendment

MARCH 25

Week 6: Constructive Relationships Between Religious Organizations and Political Authority



This study series was put together (like last year's) by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) in collaboration with the Office of Theological Ethics in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Hope to see you there!

Walking the Palm Sunday Path



During Lent we are gathering at **12:00 noon on Wednesdays** for a spoken Eucharist under the theme of "Walking the Palm Sunday Path." We share in the sacrament but also in an opportunity to follow Jesus along the path he walked into Jerusalem and eventually to the cross.

This is followed by our annual Lenten Lunches. After the meal, those who are interested gather in the Parlor for learning based on a curriculum from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania (LAMPa) in the vein of last year's exploration of Bonhoeffer. This year, are exploring *Faith and Civic Life* which is an opportunity to learn more about the ELCA's latest social statement adopted by the Church-wide Assembly in August 2025.

For God So Loved the World

Wednesday Evenings in Lent
6:00pm
Fifth Floor



This year, on the Second Sunday *in* Lent, we encounter Nicodemus as he comes to Jesus by night to learn more about Jesus' work in the world. From this nocturnal meeting, we receive what Luther calls "the gospel in miniature," and which we often see on

billboards, bumper stickers, and even face paint: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world..." On **Wednesday evenings** in Lent, we gather on the fifth floor for Prayer Around the Cross under the theme of "For God So Loved the World." This brief service (about 30 minutes) is an opportunity for scripture, song, and silence; for prayer and the lighting of candles; and for contemplation of the saving deed of Jesus on the cross "for God so loved the *world*." The format and much of the music for this service comes from Holden Village—the same source as our popular Holden Evening Prayer.

Lenten Luncheons

Lenten luncheons are offered for each of the five (5) Wednesdays in Lent; February 25 - March 25. Luncheons will be served at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. The cost for each meal is \$10.

February 25 Macaroni & Cheese
March 4 Hamloaf
March 11 Hot Chicken Salad

March 18 Fish
March 25 Stuffed Shells



Looking Ahead to The Great Three Days



Be sure to mark your calendars for the Great Three Days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. We will be welcoming in The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, as our guest preacher for all three services.

Dr. Lewis is the author of "A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon" (2020), "Embody: Five Steps to Leading With Integrity," "SHE: Five Keys to Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry" (including an accompanying facilitator guide, participant guide, and DVD), and "John: Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries," as well as numerous articles and book chapters. She was one of the

100 religious scholars in the United States to contribute to the Values and Voices Campaign.

Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Lewis holds degrees from Northwestern University (B.A.), Luther Seminary (M.Div.), and Emory University (Ph.D., New Testament Studies and Homiletics). She has served as Treasurer of Academy of Homiletics and Regional Coordinator for the Upper Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature. Lewis has served as Program Director of the Festival of Homiletics and Chair of the Homiletics and Biblical Studies Section of the Society of Biblical Literature.

Lewis leads conferences, workshops, and retreats internationally on the Gospel of John, the New Testament, interpreting the Bible, preaching, leadership, and women in ministry. She is a contributing writer for *Working Preacher*, co-host of the site's weekly podcast, *Sermon Brainwave*, and regularly authors the *Dear Working Preacher* column. Visit karolinelewis.com for resources on preaching, leadership, and being a woman in ministry.

We will be hosting Dr. Lewis during her time in NWPA. As such, if you are able financially help with her honorarium, travel, and lodging expenses, please speak with Pastor Jay.

Stations of the Cross

You will see around the Sanctuary again this year Stations of the Cross. This ancient practice invites us to walk (quite physically when possible) with Jesus in the last moments of his earthly life, those moments of his Passion. There are numerous stories about the origins of this devotion. In some, it is said that the ever-blessed Mary would walk through Jerusalem after the ascension to remember the Passion, stopping at the actual places along the way. Later in life, when she moved to Ephesus with the Beloved Disciple to whom Jesus commended her from the cross, she asked that a physical walk be created for her to continue her devotion. Once Helena, the mother of Constantine, had built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, she brought back with her relic of the Passion and placed them in the Basilica Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem) in Rome. Here, on the approach and anteroom to the reliquary, she placed the stations on the wall to pray in preparation for viewing the relics. To this day, many churches adorn their walls with these Stations and partake of the devotions associated with them (particularly in Lent). Whatever the origins, this practice during Lent certainly reminds us of the central most moment in our life of faith: the death of the Lord of Life.

This year, we take not the *traditional* Stations as our focus but rather the *scriptural* Station which were composed by St. Pope John Paul II. These stations take their inspiration from the ancient practice. However, where the original Stations include several non-scriptural—though traditional—scenes in the story of the Passion such as Jesus falling three times and the act of compassion by St. Veronica, the scriptural stations begin and end in a garden—with the agonizing prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane and his burial in the newly hewn tomb. Throughout this season you are invited to walk these Stations. We will then have the opportunity again to gather on Good Friday to pray through these Stations along with organ reflections at 12 noon.



Prayer Room



Take some time during this Lenten season to visit our Prayer Room located in the youth room on the fifth floor. The Prayer Room is self-guided with activities available for anyone wishing to take part. We invite you to step into this room during Lent for prayer and brief meditation.

The Prayer Room will be open:
Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, March 22 from 9:00 – 10:15am and 11:30am – 12:00 noon.

Please see Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski with any questions.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion ~ March 29

Festal Eucharist
with Palm Procession and Passion 

- 8:15am Worship – Main Church
- 10:30am Worship – Processional with Palms
Main Church
- 9:15am & 11:30am Family Scavenger Hunt at Luther Memorial

Maundy Thursday ~ April 2

Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper
with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar

7:00pm Worship ~ Main Church 

Good Friday ~ April 3

Stations of the Cross
with Organ Reflections 

Beginning at 12:00 noon – Main Church

Good Friday ~ April 3

Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion
with Adoration of the Cross

7:00pm – Main Church

Holy Saturday ~ April 4

The Great Vigil of Easter
with Recitation of Salvation History
and First Eucharist of the Resurrection 

7:00pm – gathering in the Courtyard

Easter Sunday ~ April 5

Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection

- 8:15am Main Church
- 10:30am Main Church



Second Sunday Soirée

Take some time to catch up with everyone in the parlor and enjoy some delicious refreshments at our next Soirée on Sunday, March 8. Please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship.



Toasty Warm

Homemade soup is sure to warm you up. Pick some up following the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 15.



Daylight Savings Time



Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 7.
Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8.

Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

Contemporary Integrational Orchestra Project

"Collections" - The Music of Michael Dobrich
Saturday, March 28
7:00pm

Founded in 2016, the Contemporary Integrational Orchestra Project (CIOP) seeks to provide the enriching experience of playing in a string orchestra to people of all ages, all skill levels and all backgrounds.

The traditionally-held orchestral model is competitive, whereas the CIOP seeks to lessen the intimidation associated with playing in an orchestra by providing a uniquely NON-competitive model by intentionally pairing less experienced players with more experienced players. This allows less experienced players to safely grow and gain experience while also offering the more experienced players the opportunity to develop the art of mentorship.

Instead of competing with other local orchestras, it is the mission of the CIOP to supplement the players with additional opportunities outside of the orchestras that they are already involved with, while proactively forming strong relationships with the orchestral community at large and nurturing ALL musical education in Erie, PA.

We welcome you to the performance of a promising young composer, Michael Dobrich, on March 28. Admission is free. A reception will be held following the concert.

Between the Motion and the Music

Sunday, March 29
Fred Rueckert, Presenter

Fred Rueckert, a Rochester Institute of Technology student, will present a documentary showing the Massey Memorial Organ's 1992-1993 re-construction. Begun in late 1992 and completed in June 1993, the organ was reconstructed by the

Fischer Pipe Organ Company of Erie. In 2003, a 32" Bombarde stop was added to the instrument by Fischer Pipe Organ Company. This specialized organ stop was donated to Chautauqua Institution by Mr. Rueckert as his college project and in memory of his grandparents.



A post documentary Q&A will be offered with Mr. Rueckert and Cantor Bryan.



2026 Lutheran Schools Week

The first week of March (March 1-7) is Lutheran Schools Week. We are getting reading to celebrate being **BRAVE** this year! Look out for opportunities to join in the celebration this year – but be sure to mark your calendars for Monday, March 2 at 1:00pm as we gather for our Lutheran Schools Week Eucharist. We hope our whole community here at Luther can join together to celebrate this great ministry in Erie. We will be welcoming Pastor Ryan Fitch, Associate Director and Pastor of Lutherlyn for worship.

There will also be an opportunity to vote in the annual souPPPPPer Bowl to see who earns the Golden Ladle. (Pastor Jay is the 2-time reigning champ!)





EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Orders Due by Sunday, March 15

As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 5, we also remember friends and loved ones with beautiful spring flowers for the chancel. We invite you to order **lilies, hyacinths, tulips, azaleas or hydrangeas**; each in a 6" pot. To place your order, please use the form below and return it, with the correct remittance, to the church office no later than Sunday, March 30. Thank you.

Volunteers are needed to deliver flowers to our friends who are unable to leave their homes and worship with us. If you are able to help with delivery, please indicate so at the bottom of the order form.

_____ flowers in memory of:

From: _____

_____ flowers in honor of:

From: _____

FLOWERS:

PLANTS:

Lilies Ordered _____

Azaleas Ordered _____

Hyacinths Ordered _____

Hydrangeas Ordered _____

Tulips Ordered _____

Total Number of flowers _____ X \$9.00 = _____

Azaleas _____ X \$22.50 = _____

Hydrangeas _____ X \$22.50 = _____

(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

_____ Will take order

_____ Give to Shut-ins

_____ Will help deliver plants to shut-ins

Easter Dinner

Make Gahr's hamloaf your main course for Easter dinner. And remember the sausage flavors and Philly CheeseSteak Bratwurst. Simple to make and your meal will taste great! Continuing to support local companies, Gahr's is located in Franklin, PA.

- ❖ Orders for hamloaf will be accepted through Friday, March 13.
- ❖ 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 @ \$6.50 / \$2 lb. hamloaf @ \$12.50
- ❖ New sausage flavors are also available.
- ❖ Delivery: Orders will be ready for pick up on Palm Sunday, March 29.



Christian Education

Sunday Mornings



Our children and youth gather the second Sunday of each month for Sunday School and LYO. Join us on **Sunday, March 8**.

- Children in grades PreK-grade 5 will gather for Sunday School from 9:30-10:15am;
- Youth (LYO) in grades 6-12 will meet from 9:30-10:15am.

Confirmation Class Revamp! – 11:30am

Students in 7th grade through 9th grade will meet on Sunday, March 8 for the next workshop. Four are offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday in odd months (**March 8, May 10**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.



Faith Formation

We welcome you to join us for Adult Forum, Brown Bag Bible, and Bible After Dark (BAD). **Faith Formation Calendars** for adults are available in hard copy on the Welcome Table near the Ramp Door. There are electronic copies on the Facebook page and information can be also be found on our website.



ADULT FORUM

Offered on the Second Sunday of each month from 9:15–10:15am, Adult Forum is an opportunity to form our faith and continue to grow as disciples of Jesus. Topics are about history, liturgy, faith, and other topics which may or may not be “Bible Study.” **Adult Forum will gather Sunday, March 8.**

BROWN BAG BIBLE

B³ will be on hiatus during the Lenten season. 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). We are using Josh Scott’s *Cross-Examined: Reading the Bible in Times of Division* as our guide.

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! **Join us at Calamari’s on March 3.** We are studying *Parables: Putting Jesus’s Stories in Their Place*. The cost of the book is \$14 and may be purchased through the church office.

Camp Lutherlyn



Registration for Summer Camp 2026 began on February 1. For seventy-eight years, Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience!

Lutherlyn offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school. Information is located at the Welcome Table.

Help! Confirmation Students at Camp Lutherlyn



Confirmation is an important moment in the life of a young person. It is the first time baptized Christian youth profess their intention to live up to the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and become a professing member of a congregation.

Youth confirmed at Luther Memorial have completed three (3) years of confirmation classes and are also encouraged to attend Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherlyn each summer. This year our youth in grades 7th, 8th, and 9th, will be attending Confirmation Camp **Sunday, June 14 - Friday, June 19, 2026**. We are excited about the experiences our youth will have as they attend Confirmation Camp this June. Information will be sent to all parents and students about the details of Confirmation Camp. The necessary forms will also be available on Luther Memorial's website. If you have not received the information, please contact the church office. Registration is open now.

Because confirmation does have a cost we are doing four things. First, Luther Memorial, per the 2026 budget, will pay a portion of the money. Second, each student will pay \$100. Third, to help offset church expenses, our youth are involved in many fundraising opportunities. And fourth, just like in previous years we are asking for student sponsors. **The cost to sponsor one student for the week is \$100.** So many have been very responsive to this way to give in previous years, so please consider sponsoring one or more students! If you feel called to respond in this way, you may mail a check to Luther Memorial marked Confirmation Camp or call Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski or Norma Buerk. We thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Women of the ELCA

Tuesday Circle News

The Tuesday Circle will gather on March 3 at 3:0pm in the church parlor.

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

Deborah Circle

The Deborah circle will meet on Tuesday, March 3 at 12:00 noon.

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.



March Sunshine Birthdays

Cindy Henry 3/5
2506 Azalea Circle
Erie, PA 16506

John Steff 3/21
Nightingale Nursing & Rehab. Center
607 E. 26th Street, Rm. 2309
Erie, PA 16504



Emma Braine 3/10
4403 Stanley Avenue
Erie, PA 16504

Suzanne Franks 3/23
Franciscan Manor
71 Darlington Road, Rm. 141
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Youth (and Family) Events

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, March 10
5:30 - 7:00pm

Have you and your family popped in for LIA yet? This will be a perfect time to stop down for a fun evening and have dinner with us. Youth in grades 5-12 and their families meet the second Tuesday of each month for planning of upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. We hope you'll join us.

Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



Find some beautiful shades of green for St. Patrick's Day and knit that special shawl. Put some leprechaun colors together and get creative. We hope you stop in and visit with us for a while on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am - 12:00 noon.

Mark it on your calendars for March 10 and March 24.

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



Valentine's Day was celebrated with good friends, lots of fun, laughter and good food at the gathering on February 13. It was a great way to spend the afternoon!

1st Row: Kathy Kraut , Lois Smith, Ken Kraut, Linda Graffius, Pat Gilbert, Margie Johnson

2nd Row: Cheryl Brown, Cathy Meyn, Carol Zamerpini, Martha Klomp, Tom Klomp, Pat Young, Jan MacInnes, Cathy Beck, Roseanne Braine, Emma Braine, Marilyn Rositer, Ed Hokaj

3rd Row: Skip Meyn, Bob Davidson, Lonnie, Nancy Tat



Our OWLS group is encouraged to take part in the worship services, luncheons and study series during Lent. Join us each week as we prepare for Easter by attending our Lenten services.

Wednesdays, February 25 - March 25

12:00pm - Service

12:30pm - Luncheon (fellowship hall; \$10)

1:00pm - Study Series

Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 21
10:00am - 3:00pm
Entrance Fee: \$2
Fellowship Hall

It's warming up and it's time to enjoy the fresh spring air. Get out and stop in to our Spring Craft Fair. Freshen up your home inside and out and pick up some beautiful items to brighten your day (and maybe someone else's, too). Professional crafters will have a large selection of items from which to choose. Better bring more than one bag - there's a lot of shopping to do.

See you on March 21!



Thank You's



Jan:

I wanted to thank you for the donation of three prayer shawls and numerous prayer squares. UPMC Hamot is so fortunate to have your dedicated volunteers crafting these beautiful items. This donation provides spiritual and personal comfort to our patients and their family members.

Please thank your volunteer team for their hard work. It is appreciated by our staff and those patients that request these special comfort items.

In addition, you chose the coldest day on record in Erie to deliver the items to Hamot. Your dedication is outstanding. Thanks again.

Jennifer Herring, Sr. Admin. Assistant-Nursing Administration/UPMC Hamot



Dear Luther Memorial Church:

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 Bethesda Trinity Center. Your generosity is more than a donation – it is an act of hope.

Every day, 1 in 2 youth in our community struggle with trauma, neglect, mental health challenges, or instability. And every day, because of partners like you, Bethesda steps in to provide strength, safety, and belonging. Thanks to your support, we reach over 8,000 children and families each year, offering services ranging from residential care and mental health treatment to foster care and parenting support. You are helping build promising futures.

With gratitude,

George R. Trauner, Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends of Bethany:

Thank you for your generous clothing and household items donation, 250 pounds to Bethany Outreach Center. 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.

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

Yours in a better community,

Mabel Howard, Executive Director



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

Karen Culbertson, Barbara Lemke's sister, who died January 31, 2026.

March Birthdays

Walt Gaber 3-1
 Jessica Wettekin 3-1
 Dennis Martin 3-1
 Chrissie Seward 3-1
 Don MacGregor 3-2
 Evan Duran 3-2
 Jeff Swanson 3-2
 Pam Davis 3-3
 William Brandt 3- 4
 Lori Perry 3-4
 Eric Lawson 3-5
 Eva Heckelman 3-5
 Cindy Henry 3-5
 Jeffrey Davidson 3-6
 Ryan Cunningham 3-6
 Carl Moore 3-7
 Ross Walter 3-7
 Shawn Stroup 3-8
 Jessica Spaulding 3-8
 Brady Gustafson 3-9



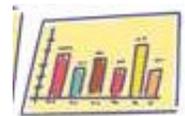
Lori Krause 3-9
 Meghan Snider 3-9
 Paula Noble 3-9
 Carl Chaffe, 3-10
 Emma Braine 3-10
 Katie Romba 3-10
 Charlene Galloway 3-11
 Ava Fetcko 3-11
 Lori Hamblin 3-11
 Patrick Cimino 3-14
 Patty Vali 3-14
 Karen Braendel 3-15
 Danielle DiCenzo 3-16
 Rylee Noble 3-16
 Brody Carolus 3-17
 Alex Cooney 3-17
 Abigail Hallmark 3-17
 Linda Graffius 3-17
 Chris Romba 3-18
 Lilly Saxton 3-19



Matthew Zamperini 3-19
 Aubrey Warren 3-20
 Karen Michel 3-20
 John Steff 3-21
 Jeff Logan 3-21
 Solveig Santillano 3-21
 Suzanne Franks 3-23
 Lois Washill 3-24
 Ella Moore 3-24
 David Leemhuis 3-25
 Shannon McAdoo 3-25
 Adam Duran 3-26
 Marilyn Rositer 3-26
 Jennifer Fried 3-26
 Madeline Stelmack 3-27
 Mark Chaffee 3-27
 Brian Chaffee 3-27
 Tom Burling 3-28
 Jennifer Foutz 3-29
 Renee Steff 3-30

February 2025 Statistics

ATTENDANCE:	8:15am	10:30am	YouTube	Total
February 1 <i>(Annual Cong.Meeting)</i>	N/A	87	37	124
February 8	13	87	N/A	100
February 15	25	68	47	140
February 22	29	57	20	106
AVERAGE	22	75	104	118



SPECIAL SERVICES:

	12:00pm	4:00pm	7:00pm	YouTube	Total
February 1 <i>(Clarinet Adventures Concert)</i>		34			34
February 18 <i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>	44		29	18	91

BAPTISMS - FEBRUARY 8, 2026:

MENDOZZA, JAVIER RAUL / LEO RAUL / KAI MATTHEW

FUNERALS: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: None recorded.

LETTER OF TRANSFER: BRUMAGIN, ROSS H. - from Wattsburg United Methodist Church

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED - FEBRUARY 8, 2026:

MENDOZZA, ELIZABETH, JAVIER, LEO & KAI DAVIS, CAROL & BRIAN KASKY, LAUREN

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

February 2026 Council Meeting

1. **Council Meeting:** Minutes of the January 13, 2026 council meeting were unanimously approved. Minutes of the February 1, 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Building Rental Agreement:** Linda Graffius spoke on behalf of Julia Hospice House asking permission to continue to hold meetings at Luther Memorial exempt from the new policy requiring a staff person or security be present for all gatherings. Linda also shared that Julia Hospice House is a non-profit. On motion it was unanimous that the Building Usage Policy remain in place with no exceptions being made. Linda also made a request for donations of our blood pressure cuffs go to Lutheran Parish Nurses of ELCA for large W/ELCA and Church-wide gatherings. It was unanimous to donate the blood pressure cuffs except for two (if there are different sizes, one large and one regular), or except one if all are the same size.
3. **Rachel's Day:** Pat Bellingham shared that W/ELCA would like to have a Rachel's Day program and reception. Several ideas and information was shared. On motion it was unanimous to accept the proposal to have this program and reception held at Luther Memorial.
4. **Nominations & Election of Officers** - Following elections, officers for 2026 are:

Les Fobes - President	Tom Klomp - Vice President
Emma Chaffee - Secretary	Greg Kern - Treasurer
Michael Hedlund - Assist. Treasurer	
5. **Check Signers:** Check signers for Luther Memorial Church and Luther Memorial Cultural and Concert Series were unanimously approved.
6. **Pastor's Report:** Noted that Luther Memorial's week to provide coverage at the Overflow Shelter is underway. Thank you to Sarah Prylinski for her leadership, SERVErie volunteers and all from Luther Memorial who assisted. Food and monetary donations are still appreciated. Guest preacher, Dr. Karoline Lewis from Lutheran Seminary, will be at Luther Memorial for the three days prior to Easter Sunday.
7. **Overflow Shelter:** Please contact Sarah Prylinski during the week if you are willing to volunteer.
8. **Property Committee:** Parking lot signs have been ordered: "Luther Memorial Church and Academy - Parking for Authorized Purposes Only - All others will be towed at vehicle owner's expense" AND "Luther Memorial Church and Academy & Renew Erie - Parking for Authorized Purposes Only - All others will be towed at vehicle owner's expense". Signs will be installed when weather clears.
9. **Fuller Bike Tour:** We will be hosting them in July 2026.
10. **Church Directory:** Carol Davidson will lead a committee and Patrick Cimino will photograph. Norma has registration forms.
11. **Boiler Repair:** Further repairs will wait until the weather is better as the boiler needs to be shut down.
12. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Greg Kern presented the report. Total income for the year so far is good. Property expenses are skewed due to the boiler repair; much higher than before. Capital Campaign should wrap up this summer; money will go back into the account at UBS. Office space being rented by a new tenant at the Renew Erie building began February 1. On motion it was unanimous to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.
13. **Council Meeting:** Scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Church Council 2025

We give thanks for our congregational leaders. Below are our council members for 2026. Please keep our Luther Memorial Church Council in your prayers so they may lead with us with wisdom and faithfulness.

Emma Chaffee (<i>Secretary</i>)	Barb Dennison	Mike Hedlund (<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>)	Nick Lang
Patrick Cimino	Les Fobes (<i>President</i>)	Greg Kern (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Liz Stroup
Rob Cooney	Jonathan Gaber	Tom Klomp (<i>Vice-President</i>)	Jonathan Ulrich
Carol Davidson			

Luther Memorial Academy



50 Year Celebration!

SAVE THE DATE: Our 50th Anniversary Celebration will be on Saturday, May 2. Additional information about the event can be found at www.luthermemorialacademy.org. Go to "About" and on the drop-down menu click on "50th Anniversary Celebration". Admission information is also located at the Welcome Table in the church and in the school and church offices.

Pizza with the Principal & Pastor

The award luncheon continues for one student from each class that exemplifies the monthly character trait. Congratulations to our January students who demonstrated the trait of INQUISITIVENESS.

Stay tuned for our students who demonstrated the trait of COMPASSION in February.



Lutheran Schools Week

Celebration Service
Monday, March 2, 2026
1:00pm
Luther Memorial Church

Parents and families are invited to join with us on Monday, March 2 when we will be celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. We will have a service of Holy Communion to begin that week and it would be so much more joyful if you were able to be a part of the service.



Following the service there will be an opportunity to gather for some refreshments in fellowship hall. We will also be holding our third annual "SOUPPPPER" contest where Pastor Jay, Principal Thom, the President of our School Board, President of Church Council, and the President of our PTL will compete to have their name as the winner of the Golden Ladle.

Etiquette Luncheon ~ Thursday, March 5



The Class of 2026 will be introduced to the art of fine dining during the annual Etiquette Luncheon. Students will be taught proper social etiquette the weeks prior to the luncheon. Thank you to Mrs. Noyes for teaching the curriculum to prepare our students.

If you are an 8th grade parent and have not been contacted to help, please call the school office.

3- Day Weekend

Enjoy a 3-day weekend coming up. School will be closed:

- Friday, March 6



Bowling Club

Our Bowling Club is off and rolling! LMA students will be hitting the lanes every Monday for 6 weeks; February 23 - March 30 from 4:30 - 6:30pm. The strikes and fun will be happening at Greengarden Lanes.



World's Fair

Thursday, March 12

Students have been researching and learning about different countries and will present the projects to other students in the school.



Middle School Dance

Friday, March 13

6:00 - 8:30pm

\$5 Students \$8 Guests

Time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day so get your green on and join us!



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 14

Parade begins at 2:00pm

LMA gathering time to be announced.



We are walking! Excitement is going to fill the air as we get ready to paint the town green. LMA is excited to be part of the St. Patrick's Parade tradition along with vibrant floats, performances and music. Hope you share in the celebrating.

Candy donations are being accepted for the parade. Please drop off all donations to the school office by Wednesday, March 11.

LMA Open House

Sunday, March 22

1:00 - 3:00pm

News that needs to be shared with your family and friends - invite them to our Open House!

Tour the school and see first-hand why LMA is a great place to be, learn and thrive.



The 2026 LMA Theater Production



"THE REAL STORY OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND" BY KRISTEN DOHERTY.

Was Alice really the sweet, innocent little girl the storybooks made her out to be, or was she actually rather beastly? Two narrators battle as they show the audience contrasting versions of Lewis Carroll's classic story.

Performances will take place on Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm and Saturday, March 28 at 2:00pm.

Congratulations to our cast!

Pip: Jaiyana **Squeak:** Zenen **Nice Alice:** Tessa **Mean Alice:** Ava **White Rabbit:** Ren **Cheshire Cat:** Jazmariah
Dodo: Emmanuel **Tweedle Dee:** Zayda **Tweedle Dum:** Rylee **Mad Hatter:** Mitchell **March Hare:** Braxton
Queen of Hearts: Maliyah **King of Hearts:** Jack.

Ensemble: Reason, Carson, Evelyn, Cameron, Mikala, Reese, Anniyece and Jaileele

Easter Break



School will dismiss at 11:30am on Thursday, April 2. After-school will not be in session. A teacher meeting will be held immediately following dismissal.

LMA will be closed for Easter break Friday, April 3 - Friday, April 10.

Students return to classes on Monday, April 13.

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Lent 2</i> 8:15am/10:30am Worship 	2 11:15am Gr. 6-8/ Assembly 1:00pm Lutheran Schools Week Service 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 3:30pm Prayer Group.	3 12:00pm Deborah Circle 3:00pm W/ELCA 6:30pm BAD	4 12:00pm Lenten Worship 12:30pm Luncheon 1:00pm Lenten Study 5:00pm Scout Event 6:00pm Lenten Worship	5 11:00am LMA Etiquette Luncheon 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	6 LMA Closed	7 10:00am Quilting
8 <i>Lent 3</i> 8:15am/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Second Sunday Soirée 9:30am Sun. Sch. & LYO 11:30am Conf. Class	9 1:50pm Erie High Band Presentation 2:30pm LMA Play Practice	10 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:30pm LIA 6:00pm Council	11 12:00pm Lenten Worship 12:30pm Luncheon 1:00pm Lenten Study 6:00pm Lenten Worship	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	13	14 11:00am Scout Event St. Patrick's Day Parade 
15 <i>Lent 4</i> 8:15am/10:30am Worship Prayer Room between services & until 12:30pm 1:00pm VASA	16 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 4:30pm School Board	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 12:00pm Lenten Worship 12:30pm Luncheon 1:00pm Lenten Study 6:00pm Lenten Worship	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	20	21 10:00am Quilting 10:00am Craft Show
22 <i>Lent 5</i> 8:15am/10:30am Worship 1:00pm LMA Open House 	23 2:30pm LMA Play Practice	24 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 10:am Pericope	25 12:00pm Lenten Worship 12:30pm Luncheon 1:00pm Lenten Study 6:00pm Lenten Worship	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	27 1:30 LMA Play Performance <u>for Students</u> 7:00pm LMA Play Performance	28 2:00pm LMA Play Performance 1:30pm Concert Rehearsal 7:00pm Concert
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:15am/10:30am Worship Book Fair Family Scavenger Hunt (in building) 7:00pm LMCCS Presentation- (Massey Organ)	30 	31				