

# 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](mailto:info@luthermemorialonline.org) website: [www.luthermemorialonline.org](http://www.luthermemorialonline.org)  
Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

Volume 47, Issue 3

May 2020

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

## SEPTEMBER – MAY

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

## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

MUSIC MINISTRY Page 4

## MONTHLY EVENTS

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

## STAFF

*Pastor* ~ William E. Coleman  
[bcoleman@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:bcoleman@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Cantor* ~ Walt Gaber  
[waltgaber@gmail.com](mailto:waltgaber@gmail.com)  
*Christian Education* ~  
Beth Keller  
[bkeller@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:bkeller@luthermemorialonline.org)  
Sarah Prylinski  
[sprylinski@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:sprylinski@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Coordinator of Care Ministry/Visitation  
and Parish Nursing* ~ Linda Graffius, RN  
[lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Care Ministry* ~ Jan MacInnes  
[jmacinnes@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:jmacinnes@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Parish Manager* ~ Miriam Scheid  
[mscheid@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:mscheid@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Secretary* ~ Norma Buerk  
[nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Luther Memorial Academy:*  
*Administrator* ~ Christopher A. Paul  
[cpaul@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:cpaul@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Secretary* ~ Amanda Fried  
[afried@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:afried@luthermemorialonline.org)  
*Bethany Outreach Ctr.* ~ Mabel Howard  
[mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org](mailto:mabel@bethanyoutreachcenter.org)



## From Pastor Coleman:

Greetings to the good and faithful people of Luther Memorial Church.

I am glad for the opportunity to continue to communicate with you about our ministry life with one another. Since most of our normal ways of being a faith community have been cancelled, we are not sending out a normal May Newsletter, but rather are sharing information to keep us connected with one another. So I will be sharing with you some random musings about where we find ourselves and some direction in where we will be going.

After the shock and sudden nature of all the changes that have happened over these many weeks, I am so grateful for your resiliency, and the ways that you have been supportive of others and this ministry. Our faith practices have prepared us for times such as these, and while I grieve over so many losses that people are experiencing and will experience, we move forward in hope. I have been humbled to see how the Church is and will always be the Church. Certainly not in the ways we have grown accustomed to, but this pandemic has allowed us to step back and discover what is important and what is not.

Many will be wondering when we will get back to church and to normal, but at this point, I do not have a clear answer to provide. I will tell you that we have a church council and staff Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 12 to discuss the process of moving forward. I feel confident to tell you that we will be adhering to the guidelines as given by Governor Wolf. As of this writing, we are in the Red Zone, and on May 8 moving to the Yellow Zone, which allows for some restrictions to be lifted. But in the Yellow Zone, groups of more than 25 are not allowed to meet. So, my goal for our council and staff meeting on May 8 is to develop a committee called "Restart Luther". This committee would develop a plan to present to council which would include the framework and timeline of opening the building back up. Like all things we do at this church and school, the plan will be thoughtful, intentional and well communicated to you. It is important that you feel safe here, and that we are not rushing back without a well thought out plan. So, until we can gather back in this community, please continue to stay connected in the ways you have thus far.

*cont'd. on page 2*

From Pastor Coleman, cont' d., page 2:

As of last week, I have added a Morning Prayer on Tuesday at 9:00 am and Evening Prayer on Thursday at 6:00 pm on Facebook Live. I do regret that if you do not have a Facebook account, you are not able to participate, but Facebook Live is the easiest platform to use. If you are on Facebook and have not yet joined our Luther Memorial Facebook Group page, please send a request to join and you will be welcomed in. If you are struggling in connecting with our online ministry in any way please reach out to Norma or myself and we will help you out. Please remember that we post a Bible study on Wednesday morning and our worship service on Sunday morning. So we are providing spiritual resources on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

This past Sunday we started mailing out a Sunday morning worship service for those who are not able to get online. If you are not able to get online, and you did not receive a mailing for last Sunday, please contact Norma in the church office and we will get you on the mailing list.

During our May Zoom council and staff meeting, we will get a financial update from Greg Kern and Miriam Scheid. I am hopeful for positive news and I trust in your faithful giving to this ministry. We have been blessed, and I thank you again and again for how you have been giving and responding during these uncertain times.

A continued word of thanks to the faithful volunteers who have been preparing meals on Mondays and delivering them to people within our congregation! The group preparing and delivering the meals have been keeping good distance from one another and wearing masks and adhering to good hand washing. Also, a continued word of thanks to so many of you who have been making face masks, calling one another, writing cards and staying connected to one another.

I wanted to say thank you to Linda Graffius, Jan MacInnes and Norma Buerk for being so helpful to so many people within this congregation. Luther Memorial Church has received so many thank you notes from people and organizations who have been touched by their kindness and outreach. So thank you to them. Also, we have received thank you notes from the Bethany Outreach Center, the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA), and the Bethesda Foundation for this congregation's financial support.

Finally, I have some wonderful news to share with you about congregational member Michael Snider. As I reported to our church council in April, Michael has entered the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod's Candidacy process which is the first step in Michael in becoming a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Blessings to Michael, Meghan, Matthew, Mason and Morgan as they begin this new journey of faith and I ask for your prayers for them.

### **From the Stewardship Committee**

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One of the concerns for the leadership of the congregation during our time of separation has been the fact that even when our members are not physically present for worship, the ministry of Luther Memorial continues and the need for a regular flow of offerings to support the ministry is still present. The Stewardship Committee took steps as soon as the "stay at home" order went out to begin encouraging the pastor to include in his virtual worship service announcements a reminder of the continuing financial needs of the church. He happily agreed and from the first broadcast on has been including the reminder.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I checked with Miriam a day or so ago to find out if people were doing as they have been encouraged to do. The happy news from her was that we are doing quite well and that offerings were, indeed, being sent in by mail and through electronic means. Without supplying any specific amounts, her report was that we were not presently in any budgetary crisis for lack of income and, if present behavior in this regard continues, we should not suffer any great shortfall in offerings.

The Stewardship Committee wants to extend a huge "thank you" to all who have taken this matter seriously. We are really not surprised that the congregation has stepped up so well in these extraordinary times but do think it is appropriate to extend a virtual pat on the back to everyone and a hearty "keep up the good work."

*Stan Rose, Chairperson*

Luther Memorial Stewardship Committee

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Our Members:**

Kathy & Bob Weisman	Laura Beth Kraut	Mike Daniels	Jessica Copfer
Cheryl Brown	Dorothy Overberg	Sutton Rowland	Linda Soles
Judy & Robert Crissman	Abbie Treiber	David Ruler	Bill Grande
Family of Holly Bebko	Lois & Dick Schultz	Sandra Brindle	Lois Fobes
Family of Sylvia Johnson	Suzanne Franks	Grace Petron	Juliet Woodward
Family of Pauline Griffin			

**Friends and Family:**

Larry Chadwick	Patty Chadwick	Jackie Barber	Bobbi MacInnes
Patrice DiTullio	Ashley	Larry E.	Tom W.
John & Naomi Howard	Jonathan	Tim Zuzula	Jessica P.
Madison & family	Ed Hokaj	Moore family	Marybeth Porter
Linda Sutto	Linda Grimm	Amanda Toms	Tom T.
Carol & Frank V.	Edna Pett	Mary Ellen Monjera	Cassidy Berger
Katrina Foltz	Jeff F.	Kimberly Ferry	Juan Esparza
Seamus Saeurs	Brandon Jones	Rob, Theresa & Mia	Heather D.
Mitch Dougan	Julie Pond	Janie Moran	Debbie S.
Paul Spierling	Beth G.	Joan Torrelli	Bob Weisman
Chelsie Doan & family	Ben Young	Pamela Hagele	Jayne Simon
Vicki	Bill	John Shafer	Norman Jensen
Baby Mike Campbell	Ron Lester	Cynthi Post	Kim Hunkins
Amanda & Joe	Ethan Polasky	Julie	Melissa G.
Lucas Dreschler & family	Tom Kraut	Shauna	Rich Braendel, II
Virginia Kochanczyk	Bruce Elfvin	Clarence Chase	Joyce DiMichele
Kristen	Lucia Doyle	Jeff F.	Nicole Galloway
Brandon & Stacey Campbell	Carol Adams	Jay Henry	Stephany Bourne
Jennifer Young (not related to Pat)	Sue Gerke	Nieratko family	Betsy
Blaire & Heather Smith	Valerie H.		

**Our Military Service Men & Women:**

Michael Stickner	Mike Lytle	Stephen Benacci	Ben Dixon
Andrew Watson			

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS OUR HEALTHCARE TEAM:**

Sarah Prylinski	Ashley Young	Brooke McCall	Shawn Stroup
Andres Duran	Roberta Lobaugh	Kristen Ambrose	Alyssa Seybert
Jeanne Gaber	Mary Daniels	Patti Vali	Pat Brown
Dave Ditz	Alaina Budzinski	Matt Kirby	Betsy Jones
Jeffrey Kim	Laura McIntosh	Anthony Baroni	Jessica Spaulding
Tricia Kite	Greg Parker	Nathan Blackwood	Jennifer Young
Amanda & Josh Stelmack			



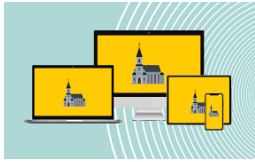
*Our love and sympathy is extended  
to the family and friends of:*

Alice Engel who died Thursday, March 12, 2020  
 Natasha Nieratko who died Saturday, April 4, 2020  
 Sylvia Johnson who died Wednesday, April 8, 2020  
 Carol Henderson (Holly Bebko's mom) who died Thursday, April 30, 2020  
 Pauline Griffin who died Friday, May 1, 2020

## Music Ministry

### A Note from our Cantor regarding Recorded Sunday Worship Music

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You have probably seen the comment near the end of each of our pre-recorded Sunday services stating that *"all music was performed and recorded by Luther Memorial musicians working in isolation from their homes."* We have had to create an entirely new environment for creating the music used in worship while remaining separated from each other. You have probably also seen many YouTube videos from other organizations with each frame containing an individual singing with headphones and appearing as a choir. Please know that the best of those videos required hundreds of hours of editing and processing to achieve the blend and cohesiveness that every choir, including ours, does every time they sing together in person. Requiring each vocalist to record their own solo voice is a totally new experience for most of us.

So, here is how the process works:

- I select the music for the hymns and psalm and record the organ accompaniment.
- That accompaniment is uploaded to a website on which I can create an "assignment" for each singer.
- I send a copy of the music score and rehearsal notes to each singer.
- Individual singers practice their parts and then record their "vocal track" while listening to the organ accompaniment.
- When each part is completed, I download the individual contributions and begin working to make it sound like a choir singing together in the same space.
- The music editing process includes:
  - Adjusting the volume levels of each voice for a balanced choral sound.
  - Removing some extraneous background noises - these have included shuffling papers, footsteps of pets, throat clearing, etc.
  - Adding some reverberation - the ambient sound of our living rooms is extremely different than that of our worship spaces.
  - Adjusting the placement of consonants such as the final "t" in "spirit". Choirs routinely work these out in rehearsals, but it is impossible for everyone singing in isolation to know exactly how all the other singers will handle these.
  - Adding instrumental descants on some hymn verses

I have encouraged all of our choir members to use this as a tool to stay engaged and singing throughout this time of isolation. If they are not comfortable with the result of their solo work, it does not have to be included in the Sunday recording. But hopefully when we come back together our singing and musicianship will not be completely "rusty".

An extra benefit of working this way is that choir members do not have to be physically located in the Erie area. In fact, two of our singers (*Mary Laver & David Ruler*) are hundreds of miles away in Florida and Ontario. One other "feature" of this process is that a singer can contribute more than one part to the final mix. As an example, the 4-part chanting of the psalm verses for the past several weeks has been sung by Molly and Jonathan Gaber. Molly has been singing the women's soprano and alto parts and Jonathan the men's tenor and bass parts.

Fortunately, I also have a software-based organ in my home that allows me to record the organ parts directly to an audio file - no speakers or microphones involved. This software system enables me to select and purchase libraries of "sampled" organ sounds from around the world. The one that I have used for most of the organ music is one that I have become very fond of located in Velesovo, Slovenia.

On occasion, I have included music that was previously heard during worship at Luther Memorial. I now wish that we had recorded more music, but I am grateful for the few recordings dating back to the tenure of Kevin Sadowski and David Ruler as well as more recent Bach Cantata Vespers and Good Friday services.

A brief comment on the final product - the Sunday morning worship videos. Pastor Coleman has handled all of the recording of the video segments. I scrambled to piece together some software tools to produce the other components of the final product. These include the organ, the singing collaboration website, the music post-processing and editing software, and the software that enables all of the audio, video, pictures and text to be assembled into the completed video that is published on YouTube.

I thank all those that have worked with me through this difficult period - and we are all looking forward to the time when we can once again sing and make music within the worship space of Luther Memorial.

## Welcome to Our New Members

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**Catherine Beck** – Originally from Erie, Catherine lived in Florida for 15 years. She moved back home to Erie in 2012. Catherine's cousin is Marjorie Johnson and they enjoy attending the Magic Fingers Grace Group together. She is also a member of VASA and enjoys shopping and traveling. Catherine is busy with her daughter, five step-children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Karen Lundwall** – Ordained for 41 ½ years, Pastor Karen is retired as a Lutheran Pastor. Her schedule is quite full as she is involved with the Holy Trinity Pasta and Soup Kitchen, the Board of Community Shelter Services, VASA, and the Erie Genealogical Society.



**Amanda & Josh Stelmack, Austin, Madeline, Grant and Samantha** – Josh has his doctorate and is currently working at Millcreek Community Hospital. He will graduate in May with his Masters in Hospital Administration. Amanda works full time as a paramedic. Family life is very busy with four children, but their favorite get-away is a trip to Disney World.

## Christian Education

### Children's Church

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Children Church Families ended Sunday School with a big halt. All the teachers miss seeing your bright smiling faces each week. We are hopeful we will be able to see each other again soon to learn more about Jesus. We had hoped to have a reception to thank our many teachers for their dedication throughout this year. For now though, we want to extend a very big thank you to all those that help make our Children's Church so great:

- ❖ Kathy Sahlmann for sharing the gift of music with us every week.
- ❖ Emily Cekella, a Gannon student attending Luther Memorial, and Krista Partsch for teaching our Pre-K and Kindergarten students.
- ❖ Kathy Sahlmann and Julie Ditz for teaching our first through third grade students.
- ❖ Maria Brown and Liz Stroup for teaching and leading our fourth through sixth grade students.
- ❖ Anna Keller for taking care of our youngest members in the Nursery.

It takes many hands to help teach our young people about God, and we are very fortunate to have so many dedicated to do that.

### Vacation Bible School

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VBS materials have been ordered and are already at Luther Memorial. The theme is the Rocky Railway by Group Publishing. The message of this year's program is "Jesus' Power Will Pull Us Through". Mrs. Keller has checked the Group Publishing website and the good news is we can have a virtual VBS. Group Publishing will have all the materials, copyright releases, and media needed to modify our program for FREE!



If we are not able to join together at Luther Memorial, we will hold a virtual Vacation Bible School. So mark the week of July 6-10 on your calendars in ink because we will have VBS! As we move forward we will be in contact and let everyone know what our plan will be.

### First Holy Communion

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Calling all Holy Communion families! Please keep checking your email because Mrs. Keller will be sending more activities for you to be doing as a family. Our hope is that we will celebrate this important milestone in your faith journey on Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October. This will be very special day as our Confirmation students will be confirmed and our third grade students will receive their Bibles.

Hoping we will then end with a wonderful reception in the Parlor. That is the plan for now. Things may change, but we will make it a special celebration when it happens.



## Graduating?

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Many young people are graduating this year from high schools and colleges. Most graduation ceremonies may not be held, but we would like to recognize graduating seniors for their wonderful accomplishments. Please contact the church office and let us know if your son and/or daughter are graduating. Thank you.

- For our high school graduates, please provide the name of the high school you are graduating from and the name of the college you will be attending;
- For our college graduates, please provide the name of the college you are graduating from and your degree.

## Confirmation Camp

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Camp Lutherlyn, as this moment in time, has postponed the opening of camp until (at the earliest) July 5. So that means we will not be attending Confirmation Camp at our regular time. We are open to looking for a later date in the summer, but Pastor cannot say at this point what will be happening with Confirmation camp this year. Pastor will keep everyone posted as he knows more. Please see the communication from Camp Lutherlyn for their announcement regarding camp for this summer.



Dear Lutherlyn Community,

We miss you and we are so thankful for the prayers, support, and patience that you have shared with us over the past several weeks. The Lutherlyn Board of Directors has reached the difficult decision that we need to delay the start of summer camp. The earliest that summer camp could start is July 5. This was not an easy decision, but was made after much research, conversation, and prayerful discernment with the safety, health, and well-being of our campers as our top priority. Please know that this decision does not eliminate the possibility of ministry later in the summer and we remain hopeful for a summer of life-changing adventures in faith at Lutherlyn.

If you currently have a camper registered for summer camp prior to July 5 (including Family Camp and Day Camp) please wait with us. As we are given guidance from the American Camp Association and the Centers for Disease Control over the next few weeks, we will determine that plan for July and August and contact everyone with more details about registrations and the schedule. We promise that every camper that is already registered will have the opportunity to come to camp or will be able to receive a full refund.

The Board of Directors will continue to meet regularly and will make a decision regarding July and August opportunities by the end of May. As faith-filled people, we continue to live with hope that possibilities will be available for ministry to take shape in a way that connects us all to God, creation, and one another. We invite you to share in this hope with us.

As more decisions are made, we will continue to provide updates through e-mail, [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com), and Facebook (Camp Lutherlyn). Of course, if you have questions or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to contact us. Lutherlyn is and will remain a God-Given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to shine with the light of Christ!

With Hopeful Anticipation,



Deb Roberts  
Executive Director



Pastor Jocelyn Johnston  
Board Chair

## Youth – Let's Upload our Creativity

### Sharing Happiness



Words of encouragement are always nice to hear. Sharing some smiles makes the day brighter, too, so let's do both and make some signs. Get out those markers, stickers, glitter, whatever you have and make some signs showing words of kindness and encouragement. Put the sign in your window, snap a picture and post on our Luther Memorial Facebook Group page.

Want to share that kindness with a church member? Contact Norma in the church office or Beth Keller and you'll be given the name of a church member who would like to put a sign in their window. **Have some fun;** take a picture of our church member with their new sign and post it to our Luther Memorial Facebook Group. We'll be sure to contact our church member that you're coming to brighten their day.

### Grow your Garden

Do you have extra seeds laying around? If you have some space, start an indoor garden or terrarium. You can then plant them outside at your house or share with others as the weather warms up.



### Youth Challenge



Hey! We have a great challenge for our 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Create a tent at your house; your own personal space. How amazing will it be? Add lights, pictures, pillows, blankets, and any other personal touches you can think of. Get your imagination going and design this fun and awesome tent space that is all your own. You're never too old to have a special place for you to escape to and find time for yourself.

When you are done share your tent by taking a photo and sharing it on Luther Memorial's Facebook Group page.

### Facebook Group Page



Our church Facebook group page is secure. If you are not a member just send a request and you will be approved. Join and post your indoor tents, the signs of happiness shared with others and let us know how your garden is growing.



## Care and Health Ministry Outreach

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This month I have decided to not write my usual informational and inspirational article. Instead, I would like to let you know how Luther Memorial has continued to reach out to our care ministry recipients, sunshine group and others who are in need of TLC during this time of quarantine.

Since March 23 a group of faithful members have been preparing and delivering food every Monday morning. We started with delivering to 34 people (7 couples). Some have since said they don't need the food, but then we picked up a few more. We don't deliver to each of them every week, but there are a few that do receive food every week because of their special needs. We have delivered 104 times since that date. Each person usually receives 3 lunches/dinners. Panera has donated a ton of goodies like bread, bagels, and sweet rolls. Country Fair also provides sandwiches, salads, milk and miscellaneous fruit and snacks. So we include those items in the food deliveries. The leftover food from these 2 places goes to the Holy Trinity food pantry.

Our Card Ministry has expanded to include "thinking of you" cards along with birthday and holiday cards. Since March 23, 88 cards have been sent out. We also have some wonderful people doing a Phone Ministry. Also during this time period 128 calls have been made.

Our Prayer Partner Ministry has also been active praying for everyone on our public and private lists. And of course, we are also praying for the whole world!

I am so proud and thankful to be a member of and to work with so many people who are a part of this wonderful, caring congregation! I hope and pray that you all are coping with this difficult situation, and with God's help we will come out of this cocoon like a beautiful butterfly.

Linda Graffius, RN Faith Community Nurse

## Magic Fingers Grace Group

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Our wonderful Magic Fingers Knitting Group is doing very well and totally awesome. Being apart from our gatherings, where we talk and laugh and enjoy each other's company, they are busy at home making children's hats for our chilly days we still have which will be used at the Bethany Outreach Center. Still being knitted and needed are blankets and hats for the little babies in the Nic-U at the hospital. We continue to knit and crochet our Prayer Crosses and Prayer Shawls. Jane Moran has gotten creative and knitted two toys; a lovely elephant and an adorable bunny. These ladies are very talented and blessed with God's grace. The items they make have touched so many lives and all is made with prayers and love.

Linda Young finished up a partially done project of a bed coverlet that was crocheted squares that looked like a rose pattern. She sewed together all the pieces and it is just beautiful. A lot of hours of patience, love and care went into this beautiful design and we thank Linda for this. It is our hope that this coverlet will be a raffle item for the youth as they begin working toward their goal of traveling to the Youth Gathering in 2021.

Thank you to Linda and all the wonderful knitting ladies. We happily welcome anyone who would love to come (men included) and join us; it is an open invitation to all.

## May Birthday Celebrations for our Sunshine Members

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ERIKA PIRSCHEL 5/19  
2301 Edinboro Road, Rm. B1  
Erie, PA 16509

M. J. HOWELL 5/26  
2064 Willow Street, Apt. 403  
Wesleyville, PA 16510

BOB GIANNELLI 5/29  
1861 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16502




MARJ JOHNSON 5/29  
8399 Lake Pleasant Road  
Erie, PA 16509



## May Birthday Celebrations

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Bradley Klomp	5/1		Joann Wagner	5/10	Phil McAfee	5/24
William Lasher	5/1		Gianna DiTullio	5/11	Mason Snider	5/24
Sandy Sickert	5/2		Nathan Carey	5/12	James Sturm	5/24
Debra Galloway	5/3		Craig Sundberg	5/12	Kyle Warren	5/24
Catherine Lasher	5/3		Aaron Reusche	5/13	Ben Burling	5/26
Elizabeth Lowry	5/3		Dan Young	5/13	Brad Galloway	5/26
Ben Pratt	5/3		Michael Heintzel	5/14	M. J. Howell	5/26
Amanda Stelmack	5/3		Ryan Henry	5/14	Jamie Schumacher	5/26
Elizabeth Stroup	5/4		Sharon Rositer	5/15	Gabe Stroup	5/26
Alexsandra Turowski	5/4		Julie Sturm	5/15	Jacob Byers	5/27
William Braendel, Jr.	5/5	Diana Alvaro	5/18	Bob Giannelli	5/29	
Carol Smith	5/5	Anna Downey	5/18	Evelynn Graffius	5/29	
Mary Weber	5/5	Erika Pirschel	5/19	Marj Johnson	5/29	
Pam Will	5/5	Elaine Kern	5/20	Tom Schlecht	5/29	
Christopher Gloekler	5/7	Ashley Will	5/20	Rosalie Swenson	5/29	
Katie Zamperini	5/7	Pat Gilbert	5/21	Vincent Tuk	5/29	
Carol Schaal	5/9	John Moore	5/22	Emma Chaffee	5/30	
Bill Grande	5/10	Michael Nicotra	5/23	Barbara Montgomery	5/30	
Vance Meucci	5/10	Richard Caldwell	5/24	Roy Strausbaugh	5/30	
Mary Mumford	5/10	Barb Holcomb	5/24			

## March Council Minutes

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1. *Minutes* of the February 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. *Treasurer's Report* - Greg Kern reviewed the details of his written report indicating that church finances are looking very good. Financial implications of the Coronavirus epidemic have only begun. After a brief discussion the report was unanimously approved.
3. *Thank you notes* - Notes were received from NW PA Synod, Bethany Outreach Center, VA Hospital, and Temple Anshe Hased.
4. *Synod Assembly Delegates* - Two are needed for the Assembly held June 11-13 at Thiel College.
5. *Synod Committee on Vocations* - Michael Snider has entered candidacy for ministry.
6. *Property Committee* - Members are Les Fobes, Tom Klomp, Don Tatar, Jeff Swanson, Jeanne Gaber, John Evans, Miriam Scheid and Dave Buerk.
7. *Pastor Ralph Walter Memorial* - Chris is awaiting a bid from Al's Awning.
8. *Review of 2019 and Ongoing Income and Expenses* - Pat Young is assessing this.
9. *Staff Relations Committee* - Job description forms have been completed by all but two (2) staff members.
10. *Preparedness and Response Committee* - Numerous items are being reviewed and scheduled; evacuation plan, CPR class, Fire Department inspection of non-school building, volunteer Safety Ministers, "Active Shooter" class and State Police building review.
11. *Next Council Meeting Dates* - Tuesday, April 14, Tuesday, May 12, Tuesday, June 9; all at 7:00pm.



## **Teleconference Council Minutes**

### **Minutes of March 29, 2020 Special Council Meeting via Teleconference**



- 1) *Meeting opened* at 3:30 pm
- 2) *New Business:*
  - a) Pastor moved that Luther Memorial not hold services in church on Sunday April 5, Thursday April 9, Friday April 10 & Sunday April 12. Pastor will continue providing the online services as he has on the past 2 Sundays. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b) During the period of quarantine, members are encouraged to use the following forms of communication with the church: LM website, LM Facebook Group and LM YouTube Channel. Check-In and Call Lists have been developed by staff which list people who may need phone calls or food. Food preparation and delivery take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with office hours of 10:00am-2:00pm.
  - c) Financial updates: Treasurer Greg Kern reported that both church and school have adequate cash on hand to operate for the next couple months.
  - d) Letter to be sent (e-mailed or mailed) to congregation on Monday, March 30, 2020. Topics will include new temporary worship schedule, continuation of giving, how to stay engaged with us, keeping in touch with kids, and advising that the April newsletter will not be sent out.
- 3) *New Business:*
  - a) Mark Howell suggested a "fund" be established to help those members of the congregation who could use help. Could use existing fund: MOM Group of St. Matthew's Foundation. If additional funding is needed, could invade principle of MOM group fund.
  - b) Linda Graffius has researched government guidelines on permitted activities when giving out food.
- 4) *Next meeting:* TBA

## **Teleconference Council Minutes**

### **Minutes of April 14, Council Meeting via Teleconference**



- 1) *Minutes* - Minutes of the March 29 teleconference were reviewed and unanimously accepted.
- 2) *Treasurer's Report* - Greg Kern reviewed the details of his written report indicating that church finances are in good order. On motion the report was unanimously approved.
- 3) *Communications / New Business / Old Business:*
  - a. Payroll Protection Program - LMA Board approved applying for Payroll Protection Program. If approved will cover payroll for eight (8) weeks. Miriam Scheid also applied for church employees.
  - b. On motion, it was unanimous that worship be held by videoconference on April 19, 26, May 3 and 10.
  - c. St. Matthews Foundation fund balance \$1,744.35 available for distribution. Current amount available is over \$4,000. Gina Sims, chair of St. Matthews Foundation fund, will keep upcoming needs in mind.
  - d. Reminder of means of communication: LM website, LM Facebook group, LM YouTube channel.
  - e. By letter from Bishop Lozano the Synod Assembly has been postponed.
  - f. Michael Snider's candidacy for ministry will be supported by the congregation.
  - g. Approximately 34 people are receiving assistance with food. Food preparation and delivery takes place Monday mornings; three (3) meals per person. Meals are delivered to approximately 15-16 people per week. Cards and calls are being made to check in on a number of our members and friends.
  - h. A letter will be sent to the congregation on Wednesday, April 25 outlining our worship schedule.
- 4) *Staff and Committee Reports were reviewed* - Some additional licenses may be required as outlined in Cantor Walt Gaber's report. A list of needs regarding licenses will be presented at the next Council meeting. Beth Keller, Christian Education, reported that materials for Vacation Bible School are ready and all is in order. A determination will be made if VBS will be held.
- 5) *Next Council Meeting Date* - Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00pm by teleconference.

**March 2020 Statistics****ATTENDANCE:**

	<u>8:15 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>4:00 P.M. RECHARGE</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
March 1	38	130	33	6	207
March 8	37	135			172
March 15	25	53			78
March 22 - Cancelled (Coronavirus)					
March 29 - Cancelled (Coronavirus)					

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES:**

	<u>12:05 P.M.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
March 4	49	49
March 11	47	47
March 18 - Cancelled (Coronavirus)		
March 25 - Cancelled (Coronavirus)		

**BACH CANTATA VESPERS:**

	<u>4:00 P.M.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
March 8	122	122

**BAPTISMS:** PRATT, GRACE HELEN - Date of Birth: November 2, 2019 / Date of Baptism: March 8, 2020 / Parents: Julia & Ben Pratt / Pastor William E. Coleman officiating.

**FUNERALS:** ADAMS, RALPH - Date of Death: March 1, 2020 / Date of Funeral: March 6, 2020 / Pastor William E. Coleman officiating.

ENGEL, ALICE - Date of Death: March 19, 2020 / Date of Funeral: March 23, 2020 / Pastor William E. Coleman officiating.

**MEMORIALS:**

WAGNER, ROBERT - FROM:  
Janice Underhill

**LETTER OF TRANSFER:** None recorded.

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ~ Sunday, March 1**

CATHERINE BECK  
KAREN LUNDWALL  
AMANDA & JOSH STELMACK, AUSTIN, MADELINE,  
GRANT AND SAMANTHA

**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.

**April 2020 Statistics****ATTENDANCE:**

	<u>8:15 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>4:00 P.M. RECHARGE</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
All services in April cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.					

**BAPTISMS:** None recorded.

**FUNERALS:** JOHNSON, SYLVIA - Date of Death: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 / Private service

NIERATKO, NATASHA - Date of Death: Saturday, April 4, 2020 / Private service

**MEMORIALS:**

DEMARCO, RONALD - FROM: Dolores DeMarco

WALTER, RALPH, JR. - FROM: Dolores DeMarco

ENGEL, ALICE - FROM:

Marilyn Bohn                      Jan & Skip MacInnes  
Marilyn Rositer                    Jan & Dave Birkner

JOHNSON, SYLVIA - FROM:

Marilyn Rositer                    Carol Schaal  
Linda Melaragno                Marilyn Bohn  
Betty Pletz                         Libby Blore  
Joy Steftan                         Shirley & Tom LaFontaine  
Pat Young

**LETTER OF TRANSFER:** None recorded.

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED:** None recorded.

**WEDDINGS:** None recorded.



## From the Desk of Mr. Paul

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Well, these are indeed unprecedented times. Due to Governor Wolf's statewide school closure mandate, the doors of Luther Memorial Academy have been closed since mid-March. However, our mission to provide a quality education to our students has not stopped. Our LMA staff has done a phenomenal job adapting our curriculum to a remote learning format. Using a combination of tools, such as Google Classroom, Zoom, YouTube, and traditional curriculum materials, LMA students have been able to continue their studies in the last part of the 2019/2020 school year. Teachers have done an amazing job adjusting instruction and students and families have been flexible and patient as we have entered this uncharted learning arena. We miss our students and are saddened that normal routines and social interactions have been interrupted. We pray for the return of our LMA family when the time is right.

## A Note from Mrs. Keller

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It is hard to believe the last day the LMA students were in the building was Thursday, March 12, 2020. We left school setting up our Leprechaun Traps for St. Patrick's Day in hopes of returning after the long weekend to find we had caught a leprechaun or two. Needless to say the traps are still in the Second Grade Classroom awaiting our return to school to check them.

Don't think just because we are not in the classroom that the second grade students are not learning. They have a team of parents, grandparents, and Mrs. Keller keeping them busy and sharing words of encouragement with one another. The second grade is busy sharing lessons, websites, and activities through email, text, and zoom sessions. Mrs. Keller zooms with her class two nights a week. We even had a special guest visitor, Mrs. Sedelmyer, who read the class a story just like she did during the school year each Monday morning in the classroom. Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Weborg zoom with the second grade on Monday evenings before they join Mrs. Keller for their lesson.

Thank you to everyone for all hard work they are doing.

## A Note from Mrs. Evans

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A special shout out to all the third grade parents for all their hard work at home with their children. They have been wonderful and very cooperative helping me out with this new learning environment. I could not do it without their support. LMA is a special family.

## Lego League

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YES!! There will be a Lego League FIRST Robotic Team next school year. Right now meetings are to begin in August but details will follow before the close of school. Mr. Gross (Samuel's (5<sup>th</sup> grade) dad) will be heading up the team. Mr. and Mrs. Evans will step down to the mentor positions. Emails will be sent out in the coming weeks to all families with students currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade to invite them to join the team. Meetings usually run from August to the first week in December and meet about twice a week. The FIRST organization will need to make some adjustments to the regular schedule due to the COVID19. Details will be coming to families as decisions are made in the next couple of months.

