

LUTHER MEMORIAL C H U R C H



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

Volume 53, Issue 8

November 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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FROM PASTOR JAY:

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Coming at the very end of the Revelation of John, this is perhaps the most ancient of the Church's prayers. Indeed, we could say that the longing the apostles felt as they watched Jesus ascend into heaven—as they were watching the bottom of his nail-scarred feet, the wrenching in their hearts as they watched him leave and yearned for him to return—we could say that is the very first time this prayer was part of the Church. Come, Lord Jesus!

In this month of November, we receive from our scripture texts prophecies, stories, and prayers that look to the return of the majestic Christ, Sovereign of the Universe. We look in anticipation and expectation for the coming of Jesus. We wait with baited breath for the One who was and is and is to come. We yearn for God to again dwell among us and fulfill all the promises we have received in baptism.

This time begins with our celebration of all those who have gone before us and have claimed their baptismal promises as we celebrate All Saints' Day. The theme continues in what has come to be called the season of "End Times." We will hear parables from Jesus that are familiar to us and often come to mind as we think of the season of Advent. Actually, November 8 we will hear the story of the Ten Lampholders. Remember that one? Where five were wise and brought extra oil and five were foolish and let their lamps burn out while they were waiting? Did you know that is the inspiration for perhaps the most famous of Lutheran chorales, *Wachet Auf*, or *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*.

This year we will join in this most ancient prayer—Come, Lord Jesus!—and in this time of expectation, anticipation, watching, waiting for the coming of Christ. We will begin our observance of Advent on Sunday, November 8. And while we are beginning our keeping of Advent a little earlier this year, don't think that means Christmas will come that much earlier! We will keep seven weeks of Advent. This extended period of Advent harkens back to some of the earliest liturgical calendars where all of the "colorful" seasons were based on 40 days.

Advent was 40(ish) days from St. Martin's Day (11/11) until Christmas Day.

Christmas was 40 days from Christmas Day until the Presentation (2/2).

Lent was 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Maundy Thursday sunset.

Easter was 40 days from Easter Day until Ascension Day with an extra 10 days from Ascension until Pentecost because Easter is the chief festival of the Church.

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And then the Season of the Church, Ordinary Time, the "green season" which lasts from Pentecost until the last Sunday before Advent which has the potential to reach *almost* 40 weeks.

If you grew up in a congregation that kept the "-gesima Sundays" (Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima) you grew up in a congregation with the vestiges of this liturgical calendar. The "-gesima" Sundays were the "filler" Sundays between Christmas and Lent. They count backwards from Easter Day (70 days—septuagesima; 60 days—sexagesima; 50 days—quinquagesima) and then pick up with Ash Wednesday. They served as a "mini" or "preparatory" Lent. Like Lent before Lent.

Anyway, the keeping of Advent from the Sunday after All Saints Day until Christmas Day is an ancient one. It helps us to keep the season as one that is not just about waiting for a baby to be born, but about anticipating what the world is like with Christ in our midst. When we truly focus on this as the focus of the season of Advent we realize that it is truly the prayer of the Church for the One who was, and is, and is to come to...well, to come...for a first time and again. Our waiting is for the beginning of the greatest story ever told, the continuation of the story we've been telling ever since, and the fulfillment of the story in the great Parousia, the second coming of Christ. Keeping all these together has always been the aim of Advent (this is why we always start with an apocalypse from Jesus, then two stories of John the Forerunner, then a story about angels announcing Mary's conception of Jesus). It is that much richer and fuller when we include all of these seven weeks and their scriptural witness of our God who does not leave us orphaned or abandoned, who has come among us in Jesus and still abides with us in our community, and for whom we wait at the end of all things.

So, I invite you in this season to lean into the waiting and expectation, the breathing and the blessing, the wondering and watching, and with sighs from your deepest self, join the prayer of creation itself, the most ancient of the Church's prayer: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

See you in church! 

All Saints' Sunday – November 1



All Saints' Sunday is a day of prayer for and remembrance of loved ones who have died in Christ during the past year. We give thanks on this day for all the good people that God has placed in our lives, especially those who are already with God in heaven. We give thanks for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of all people. All Saints' Sunday is a day for remembering and giving thanks, as Christians remember the good people they have known and give thanks for the unending goodness of

God. Services on Sunday, November 1 will include special prayers for those who have passed away during the past year. If you are unable to attend services with us, please remember these special people in your prayers:

JUDITH STEFF
JOYCE ZWILLING
RICHARD COME
SAM SEGGL, JR.
PAUL THOM
SHIRLEY MESSENGER

ROBERTA (DIANE) COME
JOANN PERRY
DON MACGREGOR
RAYETTA (CHICKIE) BULOS
LAURIE ANN COMI CHINTALAPALLI
JOHN KLOMP

MARY LOU BREYLEY
SUSAN AGENS

Outreach Offering



Giving offerings to outreach ministries allows Luther Memorial to support vital work beyond our church walls, like serving those in need and spreading the gospel. It enables us to fulfill our mission of serving God and others by funding programs that improve lives, both physically and spiritually.

On November 29, the fifth Sunday our morning offerings will be given to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. This includes Bethlehem at the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church along with several schools and the university.

If you would like your offering to be donated to this ministry, please note on your offering envelope "ELCJHL".

Celebrate with our Confirmation Students



Congratulations to our youth who were confirmed on Sunday, October 25.

They gathered each Sunday in October to prepare for their confirmation. They have studied The Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther, Communion and Baptism.



Mitchell Paul Boyd

9th Grade at Northwestern Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy

Mitchell's favorite Bible verse:

*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you;
I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."*

-Isaiah 41:10

Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... I went to church with my family all those times when I was young, so I could build my faith with the Lord and now I can be a part of the church forever through confirmation.

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: At school, my favorite memory was in first grade, every class downstairs watched Polar Express in the hallway and drank hot chocolate. At church, my favorite memory was making the bread for communion.

Alexander Martin Cooney

10th Grade at General McLane

Alexander's favorite Bible verse:

*"Now then, get your equipment – your quiver and bow –
and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me." - Genesis 27:3*



Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why...

I know how much God loves me and trust in him and his plan for my life.

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: The Souper Bowl taste testing—I always look forward to enjoying great good with my church family.



Cecilia Rose Montroy

9th Grade at Commonwealth Charter Academy

Cecilia's favorite Bible verse:

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God"

- Matthew 5:8

Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... They wanted me to grow up knowing God's love, experiencing His forgiveness, and having a foundation of faith to guide me throughout my life.

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: Our Willy Wonka-themed movie night with the youth group, especially playing hide-and-seek in the dark throughout the church. I'll always remember the excitement and curiosity of exploring the church, as well as all the fun we had that night. Moments like these remind me how special Luther Memorial is to me and how grateful I am for the friendships, memories, and sense of belonging I've found here.

Carter Joseph O'Leary

10th Grade at Northwestern Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy

Carter's favorite Bible verse:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- Philippians 4:13



Someone loved me enough to have me baptized. I'm glad they did because now I know why... it is important for me to have a relationship with God.

Favorite Luther Memorial Memory: Doing Lucia with my sister.

From the Pastoral Suite

As we anticipate an enriched and extended observance of Advent, your pastoral staff invites you to consider as we join in worship:



Did you know:

That in the ELCA's official hymnals, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings*, there are more hymns recommended for the season of Advent than there are for the season of Easter? And that doesn't even count the ones that through creative expression could also be included! Our anticipation of Christ's coming seems to have inspired more hymn-writers and composers than the chief festival of the Church—Christ's Resurrection!

The thing about having all these hymns, roughly 75 of *just* those that are "recommended" for Advent, is that we cannot get through them all in just four weeks of Advent. There are only so many hymns we can include in a single worship service...every year that is at least one beloved Advent carol that has to be left behind. Keeping Advent for 7 weeks allows for 3 more Sundays to include at least some of those beloved hymns.

That the choir anthem written and composed by internationally acclaimed Lutheran organist and choir director Paul Manz and his wife Ruth entitled, *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* was the first American anthem to be chosen for the famous Service of Lessons and Carols from King's College? Composed in 1953 as the couple faced the serious illness of one of their sons (who did recover), the anthem has taken the world by storm and has been a staple in Advent repertoire for choirs around the globe every year since. The anthem is based on several passages of Revelation including the one Pastor Jay mentioned in his cover article.

For us Lutherans, the paradox of this season--particularly of keeping the already-but-not-yet that is possible when Advent is extended to include the end of the previous year as we are doing with 7 weeks—is key to our faith. We center our life of faith on a crucified-but-also-risen God, a human-but-also-divine Savior, an ascended-but-also-with-us Lord, a for-us-but-also-in-us Holy One. We thrive on paradoxes as Lutherans and 7 weeks gives us that much more time to frolic and play in the paradox at the heart of our faith: Jesus.

This Year (though admittedly not all years) we are also able to celebrate additional feasts and festivals we do not always have time or inclination to: This year, each Sunday has a secondary celebration that falls on *or very near to* each particular Sunday's date:

- November 8: The First Sunday of Advent: *Wachet Auf* Sunday
- November 15: The Second Sunday of Advent: *St. Martin of Tours* (11/11)
- November 22: The Third Sunday of Advent: *The Majesty of Christ*
- November 29: The Fourth Sunday of Advent: *St. Andrew, the First Apostle* (11/30)
- December 6: The Fifth Sunday of Advent: *Nicholas, Bishop of Myra and Nicene Father* (12/6)
- December 13: The Sixth Sunday of Advent: *Lucy, Virgin and Martyr* (12/13)
- December 20: The Seventh Sunday of Advent: *Katarina von Bora Luther, Reformer* (12/20)

All of these ways of leaning into more time while also looking to the End Times is inspired by our theme for this year, *Out of Time*. We will celebrate with some resources from BarnGeese Worship, some hymns and prayers, and a weekly home-devotional our God who comes into human time in Jesus; and who through Jesus' life and death draws us out of human time into God's very self.

We are so excited to enter into this season of waiting and watching with you. We are also excited for the amplified opportunities we have this year to lean into our expectation and joy as we shout and sing: Come, Lord Jesus!

In partnership and praise,
Cantor Bryan and Pastor Jay

Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble



The Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble will bring dance into our worship service on **Sunday, November 8**, the First Sunday in Advent. Noelle Partusch will prepare and bring this dance ensemble to Luther Memorial for the 10:30 service when they will lead us in a festive procession and add an expressive visual component to other portions of our musical liturgy.

A Tribute and Prayer to our Veterans and Active Military

Our Veterans

★	Montie Collier	US Navy
★	Robert Collins	US Army
★	Bob Davidson	US Navy
★	William Soder	US Air Force

Our Active Military

- ❖ Lt. Col. Matt Anderson – US Air Force
- ❖ Staff Sgt. Alli Brown – US Air Force
- ❖ Lt. Col Mark Collins – US Army
- ❖ Staff Sgt. Ben Dixon – US Air Force
- ❖ Captain Justin Gajewski – US Air Force
- ❖ Master Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Rose – US Marine Corps
- ❖ Captain Michael Stickner – US Air Force
- ❖ Tech Sgt. Andrew Watson – US Air Force



Eternal God, we give thanks for all those who have shown the greatest love by laying down their lives for others. We especially thank you for those in our military throughout history who have sacrificed their lives for their fellow citizens and for us who came after. As we remember their service, keep us mindful of all those for whom this day is a burden, and send your spirit of comfort to them. Be present with all the women and men who are serving in the military today. Though they are actively in conflict, let them live for the peace known only from you. Help us to be worthy of their legacy, and keep us mindful of their service, that in all things we may live our lives in praise and thanksgiving to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pledge Sunday



Luther Memorial will celebrate **Pledge Sunday on November 15** at both worship services. During the service you will be asked to offer your financial commitments. God gladly receives our offerings of time, talent and treasure. Taking the time to make a commitment really helps Luther Memorial's budgeting process, and more importantly allows you to recommit your lives to our God who gives us all things. **It is critical for you to know, though, that the amount you commit is not as significant as your commitment to giving.** What you give should be with thanksgiving and with joy. Only you and God know the details of your stewardship.

Please fill out a commitment of your expected giving. Pledge cards are included in your offering envelopes, on page 6 of this newsletter and at the Welcome Tables. Don't just fill them out. Take some time with them. Pray over them. Open your heart and your mind to listen to how God is taking priority in your life and how you will proportion your support of the ministry here. **We ask that your Pledge Card be returned by Sunday, November 15.**

Luther Memorial Church

Pledge of Financial Support

please return to the church office by Sunday, November 15

For 2027,

I/We pledge to financially support
the mission and ministry of God in this place
in the total amount of:

\$ _____

This total amount, to the best of my/our ability, will be given:

____ Weekly \$ _____
____ Bi-Weekly \$ _____
____ Monthly \$ _____
____ Quarterly \$ _____
____ Holiday \$ _____
____ Erie Gives Day \$ _____

Please also complete one of the below:

____ I/We give through electronic means.
____ I/We would like information about Simply Giving.
My/Our envelope number is: _____
____ I/We do not have an envelope number and need one.

please complete both sides

Luther Memorial Church

Pledge of Financial Support

I am interested in the following opportunities
to financially support the ministry of Luther Memorial
in addition to my financial pledge on the reverse:

____ Sponsor Postage Fees
(one roll of 100 stamps)
____ Sponsor Office Supplies
(paper, pens, others as needed)
____ Sponsor Virtual Worship Needs
(Licenses for streaming, Subscription for hosting, etc.)
____ Sponsor Worship Supplies
(Wine, Candles, Linens)
____ Sponsor Kitchen Supplies
(Dish Soap, Sponges, Paper Towels, Coffee, Sugar, etc.)
____ Sponsor a Utility Bill up to \$ _____
____ Donate to Supplies for Fundraiser or Fellowship Events
____ Other:
(please describe)

Name and Preferred Contact:

please complete both sides

Community Concert

Friday, November 13
7:00 pm



Inter-Church Ministries will present **Many Voices, One Song** at Luther Memorial Church. The evening will be filled with wonderful offerings from a variety of musical groups:

- ❖ St. Paul's Cathedral Choir
- ❖ Erie Day School Choir
- ❖ Kelly's World with African Songs
- ❖ Michele Flaherty's Ukulele group "We Play for Cake"
- ❖ James Darby of the Harry T. Burleigh Legacy Alliance, soloist & pianist
- ❖ Mapambazuko choir from Swahili-speaking Harvest Family Fellowship
- ❖ Sundanese group from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Be surrounded by music and enjoy the evening and enjoy refreshments following. There is no charge; a free will offering will be taken which will benefit Inter-Church Ministries' Voucher System for Emergency Assistance (VSEA). The Voucher System provides support for individuals in need of short-term assistance for food, gasoline, bus tickets and other needs.

For further information you are welcome to contact Carol Davis at 814-454-2411 or icm@icmeriecounty.org.

Craft Show

Saturday, November 7
10:00am – 3:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Luther Memorial has become the place to be for a craft show. Bring a large bag and see why on November 7. Everything you need for holidays and more will be checked off your list. Our professional crafters have got you covered!



Entrance fee: \$2. Free admission for educators with ID badge. Add it to your calendar and start the countdown now.

Christian Education

Faith Formation for All Ages

Be sure to grab your FAITH FORMATION CALENDARS AVAILABLE ON ALL WELCOME TABLES. There are opportunities for all ages as we grow higher and wider and deeper in our life of faith.

FAITH5!

Our Faith5: Cross+Gen. program gathers all ages around various topics to share in single "eduworship" opportunity. We gather in the parlor at 9:15am on the Second Sunday of each month and share a chance for everyone from our oldest to our youngest members to share and learn and grow and have a fun time growing deeper and broader and higher and further in faith together! It won't be the same without you! Join us for Faith5: Cross+Gen gathering on:

November 8 – Make your own Advent Wreath

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 invites you to join us Thursday, November 5, 12 and 19.**

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 November 3.**



Youth (and Family) Events

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, November 10
5:30 – 7:00pm

Gathering together the second Tuesday of each month LIA focuses on community based hands-on projects. Youth and families are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Monthly gatherings are shared on the BAND App. If you are not familiar with the BAND App, contact Sarah Prylinski, 814-882-1695.

Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



This is the time of year it's nice to curl up with some extra warmth. Knit or crochet a prayer shawl, some mittens or socks and bring your yarn projects to our Magic Fingers group. **Pop in on Tuesday, November 10** for a wonderful morning. We will **not meet on Tuesday, November 24** so we have time to prepare for that delicious Thanksgiving meal. Make your Tuesday mornings extra special and join us. Join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00 noon.

If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 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

Wednesday, November 18
11:00am

Come with all your questions and curiosity and Cantor Bryan will have the answers. Our new organ, lovingly named Hildegard, is in the beginning stages and Cantor Bryan would like to share how the process will proceed.

Lunch will be served following the program; please bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or the church office by Sunday, November 15.



Family Christmas Extravaganza



Bring out the tinsel, the jingle bells, maybe some glitter and glue.
This year's Christmas Extravaganza has exciting things to do!

Get the date **of Friday, December 4 on your calendars for our Family Christmas Extravaganza!** It will be a night filled with fun and laughter. Holly jolly festivities are in store from **5:30 – 9:30pm**. Even the Grinch will smile with all the fun we're going to have!



November Sunshine Birthdays

Shirley Lawson 11/2
531 Crotty Drive Ext.
Erie, PA 16511

Loretta Deeds 11/14
Holiday Niagara Village
2380 Village Common Dr., Apt. 225
Erie, PA 16506

Bea Leemhuis 11/17
Regency at South Shore
322 Washington Place, Apt. 133
Erie, PA 16505



Women of the ELCA

Tuesday Circle

Our next gathering will be held:

**Tuesday, November 3
3:00pm**

If you have any questions, please contact
Pat Young at 455-7736.



Deborah Circle

**Tuesday, November 3
12:00 noon**

Luther Memorial Church Parlor

For more information, contact Judy Johnson
at 833-4600.

Spreading Christmas Cheer

Our W/ELCA Circles will send Christmas surprises to our friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church this year. Christmas gift bags will be prepared and distributed on the Tuesday closest to Christmas to all that attend the Holy Trinity Tuesday evening supper. We are looking forward to putting smiles on lots of faces.



Thank Offering



Our "Thankoffering" boxes, which go to the national Women of the ELCA office, are due by the November 3 meeting. If you find you are unable to attend a circle meeting in November, you are welcome to drop it off in the church office or give to Pat Young. Thank you.

Pennies for Poverty



As a continuing project to aid women and children in crisis, special containers for donations to "Pennies for Poverty" are located by the doors to the Main Church and Faith Chapel. Our women's groups thank one and all for your donations of coins and dollars.



Handel's Messiah

**Sunday, November 29
3:00pm
Warner Theatre**

This season, Handel's Messiah moves to the Warner Theatre. Experience this timeless masterwork with your full Erie Philharmonic Chorus on the Warner stage and plenty of room in the hall to share this longstanding holiday tradition with family and friends.



Under the direction of Thomas Brooks along with the Erie Philharmonic Chorus and Prelude Performance by the Youth Choirs this will be a magical performance. Pricing: Premium Section - \$35; Standard Section - \$25; Student and child tickets (any section) - \$19. Seating is general admission by section.

For further information call 814-455-1375 or eriephil.org.

Clothing Distribution Party

**Saturday, December 5
10:00am - 1:00pm
St. James Place
2622 Buffalo Road**



Free clothing will be available for men, women, and children at the Annual Clothing Distribution Party. Stop by and pick up needed items; free snacks and refreshments will also be offered.

St. James Place is located across the street from St. James Catholic Church @ Route 20 / Buffalo Road and Bird Drive in Wesleyville. For further information contact the Community Outreach Group, TimNow.CommOutrchGrp@gmail.com or 814-566-6435.

Poinsettia Order Form



As we prepare to celebrate during the Christmas season, we also remember friends and loved ones with poinsettias for the chancel. Poinsettias this year will be \$8.50 each for a 6 ½" poinsettia. **To place an order, please return the completed form, with proper remittance, to the church office by Sunday, December 6.** Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER POINSETTIAS TO OUR HOME-BOUND.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE CHECK THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THE ORDER FORM.

_____ Plant(s) in memory of:

From: _____

_____ Plant(s) in honor of:

From: _____

Plants Ordered _____ X \$8.50 = _____

(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

_____ WILL TAKE ORDER

_____ GIVE TO SHUT-INS

_____ WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS



Decorating for Christmas



**Sunday, November 22
11:30am**

Christmas tree ornaments, nativity scenes, tinsel, candles – it's time to deck out Luther Memorial for the holidays. BUT, before we start to decorate we need to pull out all those boxes. EVERYONE is invited to help on Sunday, November 22 following the 10:30 service. David Buerk will coordinate the items to be taken to various areas of the church and then, on Sunday, November 29, the fun begins for Hanging of the Greens.

**Sunday, November 29
Following each service**

*Hanging
of the
Greens*

Join us for all the fun of decorating at Hanging of the Greens. There's decorating for everyone to do so be sure to join us!

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 16
6:00pm
Main Church



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

Grief and love hold hands intentionally, because we grieve in proportion to how much we loved that individual. We grieve because that love has been disturbed from its place and forced to be redefined.

We invite you to our Blue Christmas service this year to remember and honor those who are no longer with us as we look forward with hope and peace.

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

St. Lucia Festival



Christmas at Luther Memorial has the added anticipation of the annual St. Lucia Festival. Preparations have already begun for that very special program on **Sunday, December 13 at 4:00pm.**

SVEA Lodge #296 and Luther Memorial look forward to presenting this pageant each year. There are many parts to this program in which you can participate. We are looking for children and young adults to fill the roles for Lucia's Attendants, Baker Boys, Swedish Boys and Girls, Tomte and Narrators.

- Practices will be held each Sunday, November 15, 22, 29 and December 6. Prior to the St. Lucia program on Sunday, December 13 a brief rehearsal will be held at 11:45am;
- All practices will be held from 11:45am – 1:00pm;
 - Practices for 3rd grade and older will begin **Sunday, November 15;**
 - Practices for 2nd grade and younger will begin **Sunday, November 22;**
 - Parents: Please attend the first practice to sign in your child.

For more information, please contact Lena Donnelly at 814-403-7825. We are looking forward to sharing our traditional St. Lucia program with everyone this Christmas season.

A Delicious Christmas

Leave the Christmas fixin's to Gahr's! With a variety of breakfast sausages, hamloaf and bratwurst, there's no need to spend time in the kitchen during the holidays. For Christmas meals and any time of the year, you'll probably want to order a few. Continuing to support local companies, Gahr's is located in Franklin, PA.

- ❖ Orders for hamloaf will be accepted through Sunday, November 29.
- ❖ 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
- ❖ A variety of sausage flavors available and Philly cheesesteak bratwurst, too
- ❖ Delivery: Orders will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 20.

GAHR'S
HAMLOAF
LLC
(OVEN READY)

November Birthdays

Benjamin Shchouchkoff 11-1
 Morgan Snider 11-1
 Louella Januleski 11-2
 Rosanne Braine 11-2
 Michael Weber 11-2
 Kathy Kraut 11-2
 Shirley Lawson 11-2
 Grace Pratt 11-2
 Kristen Botelho 11-3
 Bill Allamon 11-3
 Maryann Kozlowski 11-4
 Zachary Middaugh 11-4
 Tim Young 11-5
 Landon DeDionisio 11-6
 Kelley Lang 11-6
 Jason Flood 11-6
 John Tell 11-7
 Christian Wolf 11-7
 Kai Mendoza 11-7
 Anthony Cimino 11-8
 Stan Rose 11-8
 Linda Ditz 11-8
 Sue Belott 11-9



Benjamin Botelho 11-9
 Richelle Denning 11-9
 Xavier Spaulding 11-10
 Ty Galloway 11-11
 Elliot Lang 11-11
 Chet Schaal 11-12
 Shawn Stroup 11-13
 Kathleen Stenger 11-14
 Loretta Deeds 11-14
 Jonathan Gaber 11-15
 Karissa Henry 11-15
 Maria Brown 11-16
 Jeff Carlson 11-16
 Robert Benacci 11-17
 Catherine Snider 11-17
 Angela Duran 11-17
 Bea Leemhuis 11-17
 Taylor Thomas 11-17
 Emily Symes 11-17
 Matthew Snider 11-18
 Mitchell Boyd 11-18
 Savanna Wolfram 11-19
 Cecelia Muhanna 11-21

Hunter Scott 11-21
 Addison Botelho 11-21
 Kathryn Muhanna 11-22
 Casey Hedlund 11-22
 Nancy Lintelman 11-22
 Elena Arnold 11-24
 Kristiane Thomas 11-24
 Andy Kern 11-24
 Megan Houston 11-24
 Gary Parsons 11-25
 Shelley Rositer 11-25
 Robert Collins 11-25
 Rose Carey 11-26
 Jane Sundberg 11-27
 Barbara Chaffee 11-28
 Daniel Hackenberg 11-28
 Jennifer DiTullio 11-28
 Addison Foutz 11-28
 Maxwell Spaulding 11-28
 Patrick Brown 11-29
 Kennedy Duran 11-30
 Sara Narusewicz 11-30

September 2026 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
October 4	25	85	32	142
October 11	24	60	32	116
October 18	32	78	40	150
October 25	23	93	15	131
AVERAGE	26	79	30	135



<u>CONCERT:</u>	<u>7:00pm</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
October 17 (<i>Presque Isle ProMusica</i>)	83	N/A	83
OCTOBER 24 (<i>CIOP Spooktacular</i>)	103	46	149

BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded.

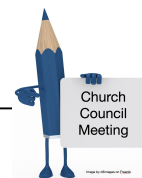
TRANSFERS: SNIDER, GINA - to St. John's Lutheran Church, Girard

MEMORIALS: BREYLEY, MARY LOU - from:

Les Fobes	Carol & Mark Zamperini
Cathy Beck	Susan Henry
Marilyn Rositer	Carol & Tom Johnson
Mary Korkes	

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

August 2026 Council Meeting



1. **Council Meeting:** Minutes of the September 8, 2026 council meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Pastor's Report:** Confirmands for the Erie Lutheran Conference combined classes are made up of 8th and 9th graders. Requirements of eligibility for confirmands is up to each congregation. Pastor Jay is now teaching a religion class twice weekly for the school. Pastor Jay will be attending the Bishop Convocation October 19 and 20. The seven (7) weeks of Advent will be recognized this year with an article in the November newsletter having detailed information.
3. **Church Directory:** Paper copies of the directory will be available at the welcome tables beginning October 18. Pdf's will be emailed as requested.
4. **Boiler:** The boiler is repaired and functioning.
5. **Renew Erie:** Shrubbery to be removed around the front corner of the building.
6. **Windows:** Plexiglass that covers the outside the stained glass windows is cracked and leaking water into the inner walls. Caulking has been done as a temporary fix and the inside walls have been repaired and painted. Bids have been requested from Schaal Glass and Corporate Glass for new outside plexiglass/glass.
7. **Emergency Operations Plan:** A security grant obtained by school administrator, Michelle Thom, has been received. The Safety Committee can now meet and review/edit as necessary.
8. **Honorarium:** Carol Davidson will organize a breakfast/lunch to show appreciation to the women who have made knitted crosses.
9. **Pledge Letters:** Letters have been mailed and are available to return to the office or brought to church services on Sunday, November 15.
10. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. YTD Net Income: ~ \$36,000 loss versus ~ \$47,000.
 - b. YTD Income budgeted at \$577,801. We came in at \$434,258.
 - c. Checking account is at \$66,543. Endowment at Cost is \$373,380.
 - d. Suggested by Pastor Jay to put a chunk of St. Matthews balance into UBS due to not taking a lot out at a time and it could make some interest.
 - e. Erie Community Foundation funds at \$3,750,000. YTD Rate of Return is 5.7%, August 2025 ROR was 7.5%.
 - f. \$125,000 cash in a CD matures in November.
 - g. Keeping Capital Campaign account open in the event of having another campaign in light of the upcoming sizable expenses we see coming in the future.
 - h. Renew Erie - CD \$30,000. Running at a loss of \$4,347.29, due to repairs and maintenance.
11. **LMA:** Three (3) additional students have enrolled.
12. **Cantor's Report:** Adult Choir rehearsals are beginning. Presque Isle ProMusica will hold a concert at Luther Memorial Saturday, October 17. A Halloween concert by Contemporary Integrational Orchestra Project is scheduled for Saturday, October 24. Gem City Band has shown interest in holding a concert at LM. Inter-Church Ministries will offer an Award Presentations and Fundraising Concert on Friday, November 13 at 7:00pm. Waiting for a response regarding a grant submission.
13. **Church Council Term Limits:** Emma Chaffee's term is up and cannot re-up. Those who are able to re-up and will do so: Rob Cooney, Les Fobes, Jonathan Gaber, Tom Klomp, Patrick Cimino. Nick Lang will re-up for one (1) year. Needed are three (3) 1-year terms, one (1) two-year term, and four (4) 3-year terms.
14. **Council Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00pm.

Luther Memorial Academy



Picture Retakes

Is your school picture not quite right?
Get a redo.

Retakes will be on Monday, November 2.



Parent Teacher League

Keep up with all the events at LMA by attending our PTL meetings. We'll get you all the information! The next meeting is **Wednesday, November 18 at 6:00pm** in the first grade classroom.



Pizza with the Principal & Pastor

Our theme for the year is . . . Growing More Than We Can Imagine With God. On October 28 one student from each class was recognized for growth and enjoyed some delicious pizza.



The Caring Place

Student representatives who attended the Caring Place Annual Summit in September will be presenting to the entire school on November 19, Children's Grief Awareness Day.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held during the week of November 2. Please schedule a conference with your child's teacher.

Students will not report to school on Tuesday, November 3 due to Election Day so conferences can be held throughout the day.



Thanksgiving Feast



The Luther Memorial Academy PTL is excited to host our annual Thanksgiving Feast for our students on **Tuesday, November 24 at 11:30am**. This special event gives our students the opportunity to come together as a school family, enjoy a Thanksgiving meal, and celebrate the many blessings in our community.

We are seeking monetary donations from generous businesses, families, and community members to help make this event possible.

Friend of the Feast: \$25	Helps provide drinks, desserts, or other meal necessities
Thankful Sponsor: \$50	Helps provide food and supplies for our students
Harvest Sponsor: \$100	Helps cover a significant portion of the Thanksgiving meal
Feast Sponsor: \$250+	Helps make the entire celebration possible and supports the PTL's efforts to provide a special experience for our students.

Donations may be sent to Luther Memorial PTL, c/o Luther Memorial Academy, 220 West 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501



THANKSGIVING FEAST SPONSORSHIP DONATION FORM

Please return this form with your donation. Thank you for your support!

Business/Donor Name: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____
 Sponsorship Level (optional):
☐ Friend of the Feast - \$25
☐ Thankful Sponsor - \$50
☐ Harvest Sponsor - \$100
☐ Feast Sponsor - \$250+
☐ Other Amount: \$ _____

Payment Method:

- ☐ Cash
☐ Check (please make payable to LMA PTL)

*Together we can make this Thanksgiving Feast
a special celebration for our students!*



Thanksgiving Vacation

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving vacation!

School will be closed: Thursday, November 26 – Monday, November 30

Classes resume: Tuesday, December 1



Author Visit

Author David Gorman will visit Grades 1-4 on Thursday, November 5.



Newspaper Club

Mrs. Thom is running the Newspaper Club again this year. Stay tuned for the Fall Edition coming soon!



School Play

This year's play is Cinderella and will again be under the direction of Miss Adams. Play auditions for students in grades 4-8 will be held on Tuesday, November 17 after school.



Christmas Fair



All students will have the opportunity to shop for their family and friends at the annual Christmas Fair held Thursday, December 10 and Friday, December 11. Volunteers will help guide the children as they shop and gift wrapping of their selections will also be available.

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

Thank you to Brooke McCall for visiting so many stores and putting together a great assortment of gift items so our students have fun Christmas shopping for family and friends.

Delicious Way to Support LMA



HAPPY MUG – PTL will hold our annual Happy Mug fundraiser November 1 – November 20. A perfect way to get your days going with freshly roasted whole bean and ground coffee. And with over 60 global tea varieties everyone will be smiling with Happy Mug. Support LMA while supporting this business located right here in Erie.

** The student who sells the most will receive a \$50 gift card to Elevate Trampoline Park!



DONATOS PIZZA – No cooking tonight! Pick up your Donatos Pizza on Thursday, November 5 between 11:00am and 10:00pm at 4829 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek.

LMA PTL will receive a portion of all sales on this date.

Parent's Night Out

We've got you covered! Drop your children off on Saturday, December 5 and have time to Christmas shop! More details coming soon.



Girl Scouts

A Girl Scout Troop will be starting at LMA this year! Involvement as a Girl Scout builds leadership, confidence, character, and practical life skills.



Basketball

Boys basketball for grades 6-8 has started at LMA.



Cross-Country

The LMA cross-country team wrapped up their season and held a banquet on October 29. It was a great season!



St. Lucia Festival



Christmas at Luther Memorial has the added anticipation of the annual St. Lucia Festival. Preparations have already begun for that very special program on **Sunday, December 13 at 4:00pm.**

SVEA Lodge #296 and Luther Memorial look forward to presenting this pageant each year. There are many parts to this program in which you can participate. We are looking for children and young adults to fill the roles for Lucia's Attendants, Baker Boys, Swedish Boys and Girls, Tomte and Narrators.

- Practices will be held each Sunday, November 15, 22, 29 and December 6. Prior to the St. Lucia program on Sunday, December 13 a brief rehearsal will be held at 11:45am;
- All practices will be held from 11:45am – 1:00pm;
 - Practices for 3rd grade and older will begin **Sunday, November 15;**
 - Practices for 2nd grade and younger will begin **Sunday, November 22;**
 - Parents: Please attend the first practice to sign in your child.

For more information, please contact Lena Donnelly at 814-403-7825. We are looking forward to sharing our traditional St. Lucia program with everyone this Christmas season.

Tuition Help



New this 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.

Tuition Procedure



School tuition payments will continue to be processed by Vanco Services, a company endorsed by Thrivent Financial, for the 2026/2027 school year. The cost for this service is paid by the school.

- The tuition will either be deducted from your checking account, savings account, or charged to a credit card. If the credit card option is chosen, you will be responsible for a 4% fee.
- The authorization form was included in your tuition letter for 2026/2027. This form is to be returned to the school office.
- Parents have the option of making tuition payments over a 10 or 12 month period or splitting into two (2) semester payments.

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

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>All Saints'</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 	2 LMA Picture Retakes	3 <i>Election Day</i> 10:00am Pericope 12:00pm Deborah Circle 3:00pm W/ELCA 6:30pm BAD LMA Closed	4	5 10:00am Diabetes Program 1:00pm Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Girl Scouts	6	7 10:00am Quilting 10:00am Craft Show
8 <i>Advent I</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am FAITH5 12:00pm Bingo 	9	10 10:00am Pericope 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:30pm LIA 6:00pm Council	11 11:00am Student Council	12 1:00pm Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells	13 7:00pm "Many Voices, One Song" Concert	14
15 <i>Advent II</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 11:45am St. Lucia Rehearsal 1:00pm VASA	16	17 10:00am Pericope 2:30pm LMA Play Auditions	18 11:00am OWLS 4:15pm School Board 6:00pm PTL	19 10:00am Diabetes Program 1:00pm Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Girl Scouts	20	21 10:00am Quilting
22 <i>Advent III</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 11:45am St. Lucia Rehearsal	23	24 10:00am Pericope 11:30am LMA Thanksgiving Feast	25 11:15am Student Council	26 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> Church offices & LMA closed 	27 Church offices & LMA closed	28
29 <i>Advent IV</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 11:45am St. Lucia Rehearsal Hanging of the Greens	30 LMA closed	<div>  <p> Warm Up Pick up your lunch and warm up from the inside out. Homemade soup is waiting for you on <u>Sunday, November 15</u> following the 10:30 service. Mmm, mmm, good! </p> </div>				