

LUTHER MEMORIAL

C H U R C H



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Volume 52, Issue 7

October 2025

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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Dear Luther Memorial,

I've talked about it often, but one of my favorite Continuing Education events every year is the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University which takes place the second week of Eastertide every year. I was lucky to share this amazing opportunity with Cantor Bryan this year. This coming Eastertide, we will be exploring the possibilities of the Season of Creation.

There are a number of Seasons in the Church Year: Advent, Christmas, I Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time. They cycle through and their colors keep us mindful of the advancement of time as well as the focus on each season. These seasons are held fairly ecumenically throughout the Western Church. There is a growing movement across those same denominations to keep a Season of Creation in the midst of all those others. It is a movement to which the Lutheran World Federation – of which we are a part – is subscribed.

The Season of Creation, I think, is a great idea. You see, there are largely two main foci throughout the church year. During the *colorful* seasons (Advent, Christmas, I Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter) we focus on the life of Jesus. I like to call this the Christ Cycle in the Church Year. The other focus is on *our* part of the story of God at work in the world. This long green season in which we find ourselves that stretches from the Sunday after Pentecost until the Reign of Christ around Thanksgiving is nearly half the year! And during it we focus on what it means to be Church.

The Season of Creation would be inserted from September 1 through October 4 (St. Francis Day) and be focused on creation's part in God's work in the world. We are definitely seeing the effects of humanity on creation and the destruction we have wrought. We have often forgotten having dominion is not to dominate creation. This is also the season in which we see harvests around the world in the northern hemisphere and consideration of stewardship in many corners of the Church. Focusing in this time of the great gift that is creation and our role in fostering and stewarding that great gift seems more than appropriate.

The change has not come yet. Nothing new or different as far as that goes. But I invite you in these weeks of October – after St. Francis Day on the 4th and still heavily in the harvest and stewardship season – to consider how creation fits into your understanding of God's work in the world. We're fairly comfortable with Christ's place (the Christ Cycle) and we're learning fairly confidently in our place (the Church Cycle)...but what about creation which grows and groans all around us?

See you in Church!

Pastor Jay

Three T's, Two P's, and Year-Long Commitment

By now, many of us who grew up in the Church—Lutheran or otherwise—have probably heard of the “Three T’s” of Stewardship. For those who are unfamiliar, they are: Time, Talent, and Treasure. It’s a handy way to think about all the ways that we can consider giving of ourselves to the work of God in this place. But let’s start at the beginning:



What is stewardship? Stewardship, arguably, is the very first thing God asks of humanity. After creating the creatures of earth, God charges us to have dominion over the earth. “Dominion” is how we have come to translate this word, but really the word is more like “tend,” or “steward.” The word “dominion” has some problems, not the least of which is its root-connection to “domination” in English. But “dominion” is related to the Latin “domus” for “lord” or “master.” And while the option is already there to “master” creation by exploitation and overuse, if that is how we view our role there will very soon not be a creation to have dominion over. This call to dominion is stewardship: to care for what we have been gifted—even to all of Creation itself—so that it can flourish into what God intends. Often, especially in the Church, we have come to use “stewardship” as a short-hand for “financial giving.” And there is most definitely a piece of stewardship that is about being responsible with and recognizing our financial assets as gifts from God first and foremost. But, as we will see, there is so much more.

What about these Three T’s? This model of stewardship consideration is all about remodeling the ancient practice of offering. In Judeo-Christianity before the fall of the Second Temple (around 70 CE), right worship = offering. AND offering (almost always) = animal sacrifice. If it wasn’t animal sacrifice it was grain offering or drink offering or incense offering—all those offerings and sacrifices we hear so often in our Hebrew Scripture readings. After the fall of the Second Temple, Judeo-Christianity had to figure out how to worship. Judaism continued in the Synagogue model with teaching and fellowship around Torah. Christianity continued into the Church model with worship taking on a whole new meaning with a meal and preaching and prayer. But how to explain away all those expectations of sacrifice and offering? When you boil it down: animal, grain, drink, or incense offering/sacrifice is a financial gift. If you are a cowherd, your tithe to the Temple and God would be the very first tenth of your herd every year. Drive your cows to the Temple and watch them be taken to the altar for burning. That’s a significant portion of your herd—which is your source of income—that you give to God! So, in a world without such sacrifice and opportunities for worship, in an increasingly urbanized and industrialized world, money itself becomes that which we offer/sacrifice to God. But there is so much more to a life of stewardship than just money. So to get to the idea of a whole life of sacrificial giving to God’s mission, the idea that we sacrifice of our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure arose.

The fourth T. Arguably, there is a fourth “T” that often comes up in the Stewardship conversation: Tithe. In Hebrew Scripture we are told that there is an expectation to share in both Tithes and Offerings. We shouldn’t get them confused. The Tithe is what we outlined above: the first tenth of EVERYTHING is given to God every year. Not trying to scrape together whatever is leftover at the end of the year but joyfully and willingly giving the first tenth to God’s mission in the world. That’s a tithe. Offerings are those things given in celebration or supplication throughout the year *in addition to* one’s tithe.

All this seems legalistic. Yes, it can be if that is how we choose to see it. However, what’s there the Two P’s come in. Over the years as life changes, as the society in which we live changes, as the needs and expectations on families and individuals outside of church change, the Three T’s and especially the fourth T have become increasingly difficult. Is that the first tenth *before* taxes or *after*? Does my other charitable giving count? What about the needs to pay my or my child’s educational expenses? To that, I have come up with the Two P’s of stewardship. They are: Priority and Proportion. Together, these get to the idea of tithes and a lifetime of giving:

Priority: The idea of the tithe as the first tenth of everything every year is to emphasize God’s priority in our lives. The life of stewardship is lived out of trust in God’s abundance and cheerful gratitude not out of obligation and the leftovers. As each of us approaches the year ahead, consider how giving of yourself to God’s mission will be a priority in your life. How it will take first place over all else. I find it often helpful to remember Luther’s admonition on the First Commandment that *anything* we place before God to receive our fear, love, or trust is our God—even if it is not God.

Continued on page 3

Proportion: The Tithe also was a set proportion of what one had. One-tenth. In the world today, one tenth of possessions seems like a lot for some and a pittance to others. Becoming hyper focused on the one tenth can be an unachievable wish for some and a limitation on generosity for others. Asking ourselves as we consider our stewardship in the year ahead what *proportion* of our budgets God will get is a good place to start. We should proportion our time, our talent, and our treasure (they haven't necessarily gone away) so that we *feel* our giving. That helps keep God a priority. However, we should not get the proportion so high that we neglect the reasonable needs of life, either.

This is still sounding a lot like money talk. Yes. In many ways, especially at this time of year as we consider the coming year's budget, it is. We will each be asked to fill out a pledge card for our financial commitment to the ministry of God in this place for the year ahead. Being honest with those commitments—and making a commitment is more important than the number—is the only way for us to make an honest and faithful budget for the coming year. However, the life of stewardship is not *just* about money. The Three T's still exist. But I've come to think in different terms and invite you for this year to consider them, too. Perhaps in the future we'll have multiple different pledge Sundays to explore this life of stewardship:

Participation: as the program year gets under way, consider how you and your family can prioritize and proportion your participation in the programs going on throughout the year. Can you help as worship leaders? Can you attend one of our many Faith Formation groups? Can you supply a Coffee Hour or Second Sunday Soirée? The opportunities for generosity with your participation in our life together are numerous.

Prayer: do you take time each day to pray for the ministry of God in this place? Do you pray for the congregation, for folks on our prayer list, for your staff? If not each day, do you have time set aside regularly for such prayer? It is a vital part of our ability to continue to live into God's intention for us here at Luther Memorial. Budget some time each week to sit around dinner or just before bed or as you get up in the morning...heck, on your morning commute...to lift up Luther Memorial and God's mission here in prayer.

Presence: this may seem the same as Participation, but there is a difference. Can you set aside a proportion of your time to just attend the goings on at Luther? Maybe just be present in conversation while you're together with Luther people or on the other end of the phone. When considering the year ahead, can you offer your presence to the life of faith here at Luther?

This is a lengthy article, I know that. You've given some time to reading it. That's good. I invite you to consider as we move into this season when harvest and gratitude and gatherings become central to our schedules to consider your life of stewardship. You are a baptized Child of God. That is the greatest gift you can ever be given. Everything you have comes from God. That is another pretty good gift. How are you being inspired in this season to give back, to offer, to sacrifice to God just some of the gifts you have received?

A Pledge Card is below and will also be in next month's newsletters 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 23.**

**MY COMMITMENT TO GOD THROUGH THE MINISTRY
OF LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH - YEAR 2026**

I/we commit my/our entire life in service to our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore, will offer a portion of my/our income as a thank offering to God in support of the mission and ministry of God at Luther Memorial Church. I promise, with the help of God, to give through Luther Memorial Church during this coming year as follows:

\$ _____	for Current Ministry	Remarks
\$ _____	for _____	_____
\$ _____	for _____	_____
\$ _____	Total () Weekly () Monthly () Annually	

___ I am interested in information about electronic giving.

Name _____

Address _____

Oktoberfest Celebration

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

FELLOWSHIP HALL
11:30AM

DELICIOUS FOOD &
WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP
ENJOY!!



Join us for our Oktoberfest Celebration.

Main Course Provided: Bratwurst & Sauerkraut
Hotdogs and Macaroni & Cheese

Beverages Provided: Beer, Cider, Coffee, Water

Please Bring: Side Dish or Dessert to share
A good will donation will be collected

Our Neighbors' Place



Our Neighbors' Place is a seasonal overflow shelter that ensures everyone has a warm, safe place to sleep during Erie's winter season.

A community effort, ONP used to operate on a rotating basis among several downtown Erie churches during the winter season. This season ONP will take place at the Community Resilience Center, a single site location provided by Erie County. Guests are provided food, the opportunity to shower, a place to sleep, chaplain services, hygiene necessities, foot care, and are introduced to available homeless services.

Where and When:

- Community Resilience Center (450 E 16th St. Erie, PA 16503)
- This program is seasonal and will open in November 2025 - April 2026.
- Every night from 7:00pm until 6:45am the next morning.

Who We Serve:

- Any homeless man or woman without shelter.

How We Serve:

- Providing a warm overnight space to sleep.
- Supplying one meal to each guest.
- Connection to chaplain services.
- Giving guests an opportunity to shower.
- Bringing in community partners to provide foot care.
- Connection to other homeless resources in Erie County.

How You Can Help:

- **Luther Memorial Church will be volunteering at ONP the week of Wednesday, February 11 - Tuesday, February 17. Your help is needed for 1 night, 2 nights, or as many as you are able. Volunteers hand out towels for showers, offer coffee, hand out meals, provide t-shirts and socks for those that are in need of these items. Meals are pre-made and ready to serve.**

It may seem as though February is long time away, but it comes quickly. Six volunteers are needed for each evening so we ask that you really give some thought to helping. The giving of your time will be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, you may contact Norma in the church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or Sarah Prylinski at 882-1695. Thank you.

Music Notes

A Note from our Cantor



As we herald in the Pumpkin Spice season, it also signifies the increase in our liturgical activity. With a full year behind me in the Luther traditions, I am excited to see what this year brings. We anxiously await the return of adult choir and bell choir for our weekly fellowship in rehearsals. Unfortunately, the start of those programs has been delayed due to scheduling conflicts and the efforts to mount the 45th year celebration of the Luther Memorial Concert Series.

Entering into this anniversary year for the concert series, a few things have changed in the scope and mission of this ministry. Although I am the first to acknowledge the profound impact that live performance provides, I also feel that we are missing opportunities to further engage our community through lectures and educational content. As we move forward with the concert series, I will also be scheduling educational content as well as concerts that focus on local talent, small ensembles, and creative groups to provide further meaningful interaction with our own community.

Many of you have noticed that our ensembles that provide additional ministry weekly are diminishing in size. I cannot stress the importance of the leadership that the adult choir and bell choir provide us week to week. This is a commitment that many of us ask that you consider as we are more effective with more participants. As the adult choir diminishes in number, it becomes more restrictive to the variety and technically rewarding resources at our disposal.

For the 25-26 choir season, I have been planning a schedule mainly focused on festival services where we could engage a larger choir, much like we did at Transfiguration this past year. Please consider if you have restrictions on a weekly commitment throughout the year, that this may be an option for you. If you are interested, please contact me for more information and schedule. If I don't hear from you, I may just come knocking at your door.....

Bryan

Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble

The Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble will bring dance into our worship service on Reformation Sunday. Noelle Partusch will prepare and bring this dance ensemble to Luther Memorial for the 10:30 service on **Sunday, October 26** when they will lead us in a festive procession and add an expressive visual component to other portions of our musical liturgy.



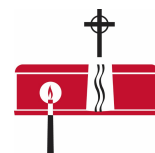
Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Every year on the first Sunday in November we gather together to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. The feast itself is November 1. We give thanks for all those who have gone before us and have shaped our lives of faith. Particularly, in many contexts, we give thanks for those "big names" among the faithful whose names and deeds have come down to us through the generations. We often think about those whose names we put "Saint" in front of. In the Lutheran context, we often include in our celebrations on this day those who have died in the past year remembering and celebrating that through baptism we all are numbered among the saints.

That being said, there is an even longer tradition held in many parts of the Church and throughout the world of celebrating all those we have known who have died—this year and throughout time. This celebration is known commonly as All Souls' Day and is held on November 2, one day after All Saints' Day. It is, formally, the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.

This year, in collaboration with the Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series and the Mercyhurst Concert Choir, we will celebrate All Souls Day with a Requiem Mass in the evening on Sunday, November 2. We will gather not just to hear a beautiful setting of the Requiem Mass composed by Faure, but also to share in a full Mass—with communion and all. We are considering this "A Requiem in Context."

Besides making sure this is on your calendar, we also want to make sure that we remember your faithful departed at our celebration. Between now and Thursday, October 30, you may submit names of anyone you would like remembered (from this year or before) to Pastor Jay for inclusion.



Bread for the World Offering of Letters



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

"Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help."
Proverbs 31:8a NLV

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

At Luther Memorial on October 12, 2025, we will be participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. After each worship service that day, you will have the opportunity to write your own letter to Rep. Mike Kelly, urging him to co-sponsor the Modern WIC Act, which will make it easier for women, infants, and children to receive much-needed nutritional support. Sample letters will be available, along with fact sheets, paper, pens, and maybe even some real bread to eat! Letters will be hand-delivered to Rep. Kelly's Erie office. You may also choose to email your letter.

The Women, Infants, and Children Act (WIC) was first piloted in 1972. Its mission is to assure healthy pregnancies, growth and development for mothers, babies, and young children to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. The program provides nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on healthy eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services.

The Modern WIC Act would make the program more accessible to eligible recipients by reducing barriers, such as transportation, time off work, and arranging child care. It would update the requirement of recipients being physically present in order to be certified to make virtual options available.

The Modern WIC Act already has broad bipartisan support in Congress. We will asking Rep. Kelly to show his support by becoming a co-sponsor of the bill.

We CAN make a difference. Earlier this year, when WIC was on the brink of being gutted, it was the voices of Bread for the World members that helped convince our lawmakers to allocate an increase of \$500 million to this life-saving program, rather than make more drastic cuts. Because of compassionate, faithful people like you, WIC will be there to help mothers raise healthy and nourished babies.

For more information about Bread for the World, visit www.bread.org. Join us on October 12 to make your voice heard!



A Gift from Flock to Shepherd

As we prepare for Bishop Papson's Installation (you've gotten that memo, yeah?), it has been suggested that Luther collect for a Purse to celebrate the occasion. As a daughter of Luther Memorial Church and a graduate of Luther Memorial Academy, Bishop Papson's election to Bishop is not just historic for the NWPA Synod but a momentous point of pride for our congregation. And we should celebrate! If you are able to contribute to a purse for her Installation, please place your donation in an envelope marked for Bishop Papson's Purse in the offering plate or drop it off to the church office during hours. Thank you! Deadline, Monday, October 13.

Make a point to mark your calendar for Bishop-Elect Papson's installation:

Sunday, October 19, 2025

3:30pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church, Oil City

reception to follow



It would be great for Luther Memorial to have a contingent to celebrate Bishop-Elect Papson, a daughter of our congregation and our next Bishop!

Christian Education

Celebrate with our Confirmation Students

Confirmation students are gathering each week through October 12 from 11:45am – 2:00pm to prepare for their confirmation. They will be studying The Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther, Communion and Baptism. We are looking forward to Reformation Sunday on October 26 when our tenth grade youth will be confirmed:



PATRICK CIMINO

EVELYNN GRAFFIUS

GABE STROUP

Confirmation students and their families are invited to attend a Confirmation Breakfast on Sunday, October 26 at 9:00am in the church parlor to celebrate this very special day.

Sunday Mornings



Sunday morning gatherings for our children and youth will begin Sunday, October 12 and gather the second Sunday of each month:

- 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

For students 7th grade through 9th grade, there will be four workshops offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, 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.



Messages for the Young & Young-at-Heart



During the "Green Season", Pastor Jay will have messages for the young and young-at-heart on Festival Sundays:

October 26 – Reformation Sunday

November 2 – All Saints' Sunday

November 23 – The Reign of Christ

Bibles for our Third Graders

Bibles will be presented to children in third grade on All Saints' Sunday, November 2, during the 10:30am service. Please contact Norma in the church office by Monday, October 20 if your son and/or daughter are in third grade so a Bible can be prepared for them. Thank you.



Second Sunday Soirée

Make the second Sunday of each month a time to visit with us in the parlor. We will gather for Second Sunday Soirées for fellowship and conversation from 9:15 – 10:30am. Our autumn gathering will be October 12.



Warm Up



The first soup of the season is here and it's delicious, as always. Skip cooking on Sunday, October 19 and pick up a container of homemade soup. It'll warm you up from you head to your toes!

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, October 14
5:30 – 7:00pm

The second Tuesday of each month is a perfect time for our youth and families to come together for service projects and taking part in fun events. Make LIA a part of your monthly routine and stop down. You never know what we'll be up to.

Faith Formation

Autumn is here and our adult classes are underway; 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 will be about history, liturgy, faith, and other topics which may or may not be "Bible Study." **Adult Forum will begin Sunday, October 12.**

BROWN BAG BIBLE

Gatherings began in September and will continue to meet 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). **Our October gatherings will be October 2, 9, 16 and 30.** 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 October 7.**

This year we will be studying *Parables: Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place*. The cost of the book is \$14 and may be purchased through the church office.

Prayer Group Guidelines

Please read the below information regarding information on requesting names to be shared on our prayer list.



1. Obtain permission from the person to be added to the list;
2. Notifying our church and prayer group:
 - a. complete the pew card;
 - b. contact Norma in the church office at 814-454-0106, ext. 221, nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org, or Pastor Jay at jmitchell@luthermemorialonline.org;
 - c. contact Linda Graffius (*coordinator*) at 814-440-5458 or swedemom@verizon.net;
 - d. contact any member of the prayer group listed below.
3. Names on the prayer list will remain for two (2) months. If a longer time is needed, the church office must be contacted.

PRAYER GROUP:

Christy Adams
Linda Graffius
Donna Sedelmyer

Chickie Braine
Jane Kinzig
Lee Swenson

Mary Daniels
Jan MacInnes
Pat Young

Jeanne Gaber
Mary Mumford



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

Dave Parsh who died Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Prayers are with his wife, Karen; sons, Michael and Greg and their families.

Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



**Tuesday, October 7
and October 21**

We always have a spooky good time at Magic Fingers. Why not scare up some yarn and join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to work on your favorite yarn projects. Enjoy your knitting and crocheting and c'mon down. We're always here between 10:00am and 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, October 15
Departure from LM: 11:00am**

We're on the road again to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage and have lunch at Mandy's Dutch Treat Restaurant, 339 Main Street, in Spartansburg (814-654-7228).



Directions: Take Rt. 19 South to Waterford. Rt. 6 to Union City and then take Rt. 8 South towards Titusville. Turn onto Rt. 77 to downtown Spartansburg. (Rt. 77 is Main Street in Spartansburg.)

RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or Norma in the church office by Friday, September 19.

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

**Tuesday, October 14
5:30 - 7:00pm**

You're not seeing double; just making sure you join us for LIA in October. The second Tuesday of each month is a perfect time for our youth and families to come together for service projects and taking part in fun events. Make LIA a part of your monthly routine and stop down.

Trunk-or-Treat



**Sunday, October 26
Car set up: 1:00-1:30pm
Treating: 1:30-2:30pm
Luther Memorial Parking Lot**

Scary, ghoulish, funny, frightening? What's your Halloween costume going to be? And, for Trunk or Treat the car gets decked out, too. It's a hair raising afternoon of fun with tricks and treats for everyone so get your costume, decorate your car and join us to hand

out your treats . . . fill up your treat bag . . . and have a monstrous great afternoon. A family fun event for all; come for some treats and fun.

Music by DJ Bill Mason

Dancing

Treating

Costume Parade

Please contact the church office, Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski if you plan to decorate your car and participate in Trunk or Treat. Come up with a fun theme, dress in costume, *(there could be prizes)* get your favorite treats to hand out and have a good time. **Set up will begin at 1:00pm.**

Craft Show

**Saturday, November 8
10:00am - 3:00pm
Fellowship Hall**

Stocking stuffers, unique gifts, special surprises – everything on your list will be checked off at the November 8 craft show. Bring a large bag to take all the goodies home that you will find at this Professional Craft Show.

Add it to your calendar and start the countdown now.



Women of the ELCA

“Circle the Wagons”



The Deborah Circle and Tuesday Circle will combine for a W/ELCA General Meeting on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 12:00 noon in the Parlor**. We will start with lunch (pizza/salad, dessert) combined with a social hour, followed by our General W/ELCA Meeting. Please bring your own drink. If circles would like to meet individually regarding their November meetings there will be time for that, hoping to finish up by 1:30 - 1:45pm.

Any questions, please call Judy Johnson at 814-833-4600 or Pat Young at 814-455-7736. All female members of Luther Memorial are always welcome and encouraged to attend any of our meetings.

Thank Offering

Our “Thankoffering” boxes, which go to the national Women of the ELCA office, are due by the November 4 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.

Thank You

Dear friends of Bethany,

Thank you for your generous clothing, household items and food donations 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.

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

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

Yours in a better community,

Mabel Howard

Mabel Howard, Executive Director



Dear Luther Memorial,

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gift to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God’s full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response enables people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for your gracious gift. You make God’s love real.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Congregational Generosity

Coats for Kids



Inter-Church Ministries is looking forward to our Coats for Kids Campaign 2025. Due to the impact of inflation, rising food prices, gas, rent, and utilities, it is our hope to help parents with the cost of winter gear for their children.

Last year through your participation, Inter-Church Ministries was able to collect 700 coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, and various types of winter clothing. Many agencies benefitted from items received for those in need throughout our community.

Inter-church Ministries would like your help in the "Coats for Kids" 2025 Campaign. The public can help by donating new or gently used coats for the youth of all ages, as well as winter accessories such as hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, snow pants and boots. Those who prefer to make a monetary gift can visit icm@icmeriecounty.org or mail a check to Inter-Church Ministries at 250 W.7th St., Erie, Pa. A gift of \$25 will provide warmth for a child with a new high-quality coat. **Donations of coats and winter items may be dropped off in the church office October 1-October 31. Please place a note on the item(s) "Coats for Kids".**

Camp Lutherlyn Opportunities

HALLOWEEN FUN - OCTOBER 26 / 2:00 - 4:30PM

Admission: \$8/per person



Enjoy an afternoon filled with classic autumn activities like hay rides, carnival games, and making s'mores. Afterwards, children 13 and under will go trick-or-treating, with adults passing out treats. Each family is asked to contribute candy and will be informed of the number of children to expect prior to the event. We will close the day at Dogwood Pavilion for a special All Saint's Devotion. **Registration Deadline: October 19**

October Birthdays

Winifred Lyons 10-1
Julie Chandler 10-1
John Lowry 10-1
Lois Schultz 10-1
Kristin Chaffee 10-2
Diane Parsons 10-4
Melissa Michel 10-4
Sarah Prylinski 10-4
Jared Bonaminio 10-5
Susan Weber 10-6
George Hedlund 10-6
Katherine Nicotra 10-6
Josh Stelmack 10-7
Brooke McCall 10-7
Zachary Shchouchkoff 10-7



Jack Cowan 10-8
Judy Karney 10-8
Jack Elliott 10-8
Alaina DiTullio 10-9
Barbara Moore 10-11
Sarah Hagen 10-12
Lauren Burling 10-13
Bonnie Silvis 10-13
Kilee Ambrose 10-14
Tom Klomp 10-14
Mark Kay 10-16
Amy Scott 10-16
George Perry 10-17
Diane Pirschel 10-19
Kara Partusch 10-19

Mark Howell 10-19
Thomas Schlecht 10-20
Asher Lay 10-23
Helen Collins 10-23
Susanne Seward 10-23
Martin Gaber 10-24
Ainsley Carolus 10-26
Amy McDougall 10-27
Paul Huff 10-27
Amy Haight 10-29
Penelope Wolf 10-29
Jaden Williams 10-29
Pam Masiroff 10-31



October Sunshine Birthdays

Lois Schultz 10/1
2601 Eastwind Circle
Erie, PA 16506

Winnie Lyons 10/1
1142 West 21st Street
Erie, PA 16502



John Downey 10/8
P. O. Box 233
Fairview, PA 16415

September 2025 Council Meeting

1. **Council Meeting:** Minutes of the August 12, 2025 council meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Pastor Jay's Report:**
 - a. Erie Conference continues conversation about collaborative ministry
 - b. Pastoral exchange will take place on Sunday, September 14, 2025
 - c. October 4 at 2:00pm – Hosting a Viewing Party for Bishop Curry's Installation in Minneapolis
 - d. Faith Formation start-up is underway
 - e. Saturday, September 13 is the LMA Block Party
 - f. Bishop Kristen Papson's Installation will be held in Oil City at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Oil City on October 19 at 3:30pm. Bus transportation is available with reservation.
 - g. Confirmation conversations have started for the present through 2030.
3. **Overflow Shelter:** Luther Memorial will take part in helping with the overflow shelter for one week in February. Two coordinators are needed; we currently have one. An email will be sent to church council asking for volunteers. Volunteers are also needed from the congregation.
4. **Property Committee:** The outdoor sign in the greenspace is almost finished. Spotlights will be installed and Chaffee Landscaping will plant red sedum ground cover between the front of the sign and curb.
5. **Safety Committee:** Exit signs have been installed throughout the building.
6. **Computer Replacement:** On motion it was unanimous to allot \$900 per computer (\$1,800 total) for the purchase of updated computers for the finance and church offices.
7. **Rabe:** Rabe replaced a cracked heat exchange unit at a cost of \$3,500.
8. **Church Directory:** A decision was made to update our church directory. Three to four Sundays will be selected to take pictures.
9. **Council Members:** Discussion regarding new council members to replace those whose terms are ending. Barb Dennison has agreed to serve a 3-year term. Volunteers will be needed to replace Gina Snider and Mike Hedlund whose terms are ending. Pastor Jay and Greg will seek a youth member to fill the seat of Ely Cooney.
10. **"Cleaning Day":** Lunch will be provided for "Cleaning Day" on Saturday, September 27.
11. **Parking Spaces:** Knox Law Firm is currently using 10 parking spaces. They have requested the use of 5 more, but it was decided that those spaces are needed for church, school and Bethany Outreach parking; especially on food distribution day.
12. **Playground:** Michelle has secured a security grant that will partially cover expenses. The base, 2,000 square feet, needs redone. Rubber chips need replaced as well as a retaining wall made of wooden ties. Select Specialty Hospital will be contacted regarding the painting of their generator and other large equipment. Our main electrical box, which has been painted in the past, will be repainted. The grant money needs to be used soon so decisions need to be made quickly.
13. **Bryan Timm, Cantor:** Bryan highlighted items from his report:
 - a. Matt Shepard event on September 20 and Western NY Chamber Orchestra event.
 - b. The website has been updated for the LM Concert Series.
 - c. Mercyhurst Concert Choir will join our All Saints' Service of Faure's Requiem.
 - d. Handbell and choir rehearsal will begin near the end of September.
 - e. Acquiring estimates/quotes to repair instrument equipment (speakers).
 - f. An Organ Committee and funding plan are needed as our organ has about 5 more good years left. Typically, these organs last only 30 years.

Continued on page 12

14. **Treasurer's Report:** On motion the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.
- a. LM is currently -\$85,000 loss to date, but less than the past two YTD losses.
 - b. Income is going up, expenses are increasing but not as much.
 - c. Carpeting in the classrooms, offices, etc. were replaced at a cost of \$44,750 which came from the Memorial Fund. Carpet "tiles" were installed to make replacement easier and less expensive.
 - d. Most receivables are "in good shape", a couple are "lagging".
 - e. Unit 204 B at the Renew Erie building has given notice and will move out at the end of the month. Places that have expressed interest in the past have been notified that space is available.
15. **Council Meeting:** Council will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:00pm.

August 2025 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
August 3	22	64	N/A	86
August 10	28	56	N/A	84
August 17	28	56	36	89
August 24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
August 31	29	61	20	110
AVERAGE	27	61	28	92



BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: **FOBES, Lois- FROM:**
Diane & Bob Banks Meg & John Britton
Mary Daly & Joseph Brown

BOHN, MARILYN - FROM:

Winnie Lyons Les Fobes
Marilyn Rositer Linda & Dan Young

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

September 2025 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 7	33	69	35	137
September 14	22	50	47	119
September 21	26	69	25	120
September 28 (LMA Sunday)	18	257	18	293
AVERAGE	25	111	31	167



BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: **PARSH, DAVID - Date of Funeral:**
September 12, 2025 / Abiding Hope Lutheran Church /
Pastor Jay Mitchell presiding / Bishop Kristen Papson
preaching.

MEMORIALS: **PARSH, DAVID- FROM:**

Jan & Skip MacInnes Carol Schaal
Wendy & Greg Kern Pat Young

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

Luther Memorial Academy



50 Year Celebration

In preparation for our 50th year Gala, LMA is creating a history timeline starting back in 1976 when the school first opened. If you know of an important event that should go on the timeline, email Mrs. Thom at mthom@lmaerie.org.

Pizza with the Principal & Pastor

The award luncheon for one student from each class that exemplifies the monthly character trait continues on this year!

September – Created to be BRAVE
Facing your fears, showing courage
Proverbs 28:1b



October – Created to be PROUD
Respecting and liking yourself
Genesis 1:27

Picture Day

Let that awesome personality shine through and give a big smile for your school picture. School pictures will be taken **Monday, October 6**.



Retakes will be taken Monday, November 3.

Columbus Day

In observance of Columbus Day, school will not be in session:

Monday, October 13



The Caring Place



On Thursday, October 9 two students will be joining Mrs. Noyes at The Caring Place Summit where they will learn about The Caring Place, Children's Grief Awareness Day, and gather resources to take back to LMA students.

Weeks to Celebrate

Special weeks are celebrated throughout the year and in October we have two to recognize:

October 6 – 10: Banned Books Week

October 27 – 31: Body, Positivity & Acceptance Week

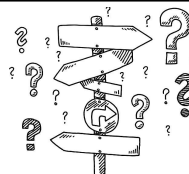


Upcoming Field Trips



Grades 3-5 will have fun on a trip to Asbury Woods on Wednesday, October 8.

Special Visits



Local schools will visit our 7th & 8th grade students and share options for their decision on high schools.

October 16 – Cathedral Prep

October 17 – Mercyhurst Prep

Tea with Thom

Thursday, October 23
9:00am

**THOM
& TEA**

All are welcome - church and school community! Come chat with principal, Mrs. Thom, and members of the LMA School Board, hear about the great things happening at LMA, and look for ways to get involved. Tea and snacks provided!

Halloween Dance

Friday, October 24
6:30 – 9:00pm
Middle School Students



Cost: \$5 for LMA students
\$8 for Guests

Halloween Parade

Friday, October 31 at 11:00am
Early Dismissal at 11:30am



We'll practice for Trick-or-Treat and have some fun at our Halloween Parade. We invite all parents to come and enjoy the costumes. Our children look forward to this annual event each year; it's a howl of a good time.



Students in grades Kindergarten through 8th will show off their costumes. Weather permitting the parade will take place outdoors in costume, otherwise the parade will be held in the main sanctuary of the church.

Dismissal 11:30am: Please do not line up for the ride line until after the Halloween Parade.

Trunk-or-Treat with LMA & Luther Memorial



Sunday, October 26
Car set up: 1:00-1:30pm
Treating: 1:30-2:30pm
Luther Memorial Parking Lot

Scary, ghoulish, funny, frightening? What's your Halloween costume going to be? And, for Trunk or Treat the car gets decked out, too. It's a hair raising afternoon of fun with tricks and treats for everyone so get your costume, decorate your car and join us to hand

out your treats . . . fill up your treat bag . . . and have a monstrous great afternoon. A family fun event for all; come for some treats and fun.

Music by DJ Bill Mason

Dancing

Treating

Costume Parade

Please contact the church office, Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski if you plan to decorate your car and participate in Trunk or Treat. Come up with a fun theme, dress in costume, *(there could be prizes)* get your favorite treats to hand out and have a good time. **Set up will begin at 1:00pm.**

Parent Drivers

Parent drivers are always needed for our field trips, and we thank you for your help! Please be sure that our school office has copy of your driver's license, insurance card, and clearances before driving.



First Lego League



For several years, the LMA Lego Lion's participation in the FIRST® LEGO® League has been a cherished tradition at Luther Memorial Academy, and it is thanks to your support and dedication that this program has thrived. In 2023, the LMA Lego Lions placed in the top spot among Erie County teams and competed in an international competition in the spring! As we

look ahead, we are excited to continue this tradition, but we need your assistance to make it another success.

If you or someone that you know would like to be involved in starting the LMA Lego Lions back up in any capacity or have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Thom at mthom@lmaerie.org. No technical skills are required for adult coaches to guide teams. Your involvement not only enriches the educational experience of our students, but also fosters a sense of community and teamwork. It's a fantastic opportunity to bond with your children and their peers, all while contributing to the success of this beloved tradition.

Payments



TUITION BREAK: If you are responsible for a new student(s) attending LMA for the entire year, you will receive a \$500 tuition discount applied at the end of the year. Sometimes word of mouth is our best advertising!! If you know a family thinking of changing schools, let them know about us!!

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

PTL Membership Enrollment



Family Name: _____

Student's Name(s)/Grade(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Please include your membership fee of \$10.00 in cash or check payable to LMA-PTL

Fundraising Opt-Out

I would like to support the PTL and activities it provides for our school, however, I do not wish to fundraise. Here is my opt-out donation:

Name: _____

Student: _____ Grade: _____

Donation (min. \$75 requested): _____

Volunteers Needed!

One of the things that make Luther Memorial Academy a great school is our amazing volunteers. Each activity needs volunteers to get the job done. There are volunteer opportunities for every personality type and schedule constraint – there's something for everyone. Below are our specific needs at the moment.

- Fundraising Officer – PTL Board
- Volunteers to serve on the Middle School Dance Committee

For more information please contact Leah King at leahking727@gmail.com

Please return this form to the school office. Thank you!

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

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



OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00 Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Choir	3	4 10:00am Quilting
5 8:15/10:30am Worship 11:30am Oktoberfest 11:45am Conf. Class	6 LMA Picture Day	7 12:00pm W/ELCA General Meeting 6:00pm Hand-up Erie Meeting 6:30pm BAD (Calamari's)	8	9 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00 Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Choir	10	11 10:00am Julia House
12 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Second Sunday Soirée 9:30am Sunday School & LYO 11:45am Conf. Class	13 <i>Columbus Day</i> Church Offices & LMA Closed	14 10:00am Pericope 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 1:00pm Pericope 5:30pm LIA 6:00pm Council	15 11:00am OWLS/Departure for Mandy's Dutch Treat	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00 Grief Group 5:00pm LMA Cross-Country Banquet 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Choir	17 	18 10:00am Quilting
19 8:15/10:30am Worship 1:00pm VASA	20 	21	22 4:30pm School Board	23 9:00am Tea w/Thom 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00 Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Choir	24 6:30pm Middle School Halloween Dance	25
26 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Conf. Breakfast 1:30pm Trunk-or-Treat	27	28 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	29	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00 Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Choir	31 11:00am LMA Halloween Parade 11:30am LMA Dismissal	