

LUTHER MEMORIAL C H U R C H



Luther Memorial Church • 225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106
e-mail: info@luthermemorialonline.org website: www.luthermemorialonline.org
Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

Volume 53, Issue 7

October 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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In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of [God's] glory." -Isaiah 6:1-3

Dear Luther Memorial,

This is a pretty famous scene from Isaiah's prophecy. It's his call story, actually. And we echo in the song with the seraphs every time we gather around Jesus present in the Sacrament of Communion. We join our voices in singing "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power of might, heaven and earth are full of your glory..."

It's a beautiful vision and even better song. Poetically and musically it has the ability to transcend time and place and lift us to the very courts of heaven to sing with saints and angels around the throne of God and bring them into our midst to sing with us gathered around the Altar.

The thing is, it's not a great translation. In Isaiah's vision (at least as he wrote it in the original Hebrew), the seraphim sing that "The fullness of heaven and earth are your [crowning] glory." It's a bit of a difference. Both are true: creation is full of God's glory; but creation is also God's glory.

And I think that's beautiful. You and I and the crunching leaves and the cooler breezes and the nestling animals and the bountiful harvests are what crown God. God's glory is made up of us and all of creation. And that's just beautiful.

And it is in thanksgiving and celebration and honor and wonder and awe that we join in worship. It is also in thanksgiving and celebration and honor and wonder and awe that we are sent out into the world to cherish every part of creation we encounter, knowing that it, too, like us is part of God's crown of glory.

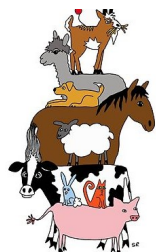
So, as we enter more fully into this autumn season full of its jewel tones and golden hues; as we carry into this season the celebrations of the Season of Creation we have shared; as we encounter much more tangible signs of God's abundance...as we live as God's beloved this autumn, let us be thankful and shape our lives to reflect God's glory and celebrate our place in God's crown.

There are several upcoming ways to join in this celebration: On **October 4** you are invited to bring your pets—leashed and/or crated—to worship for a blessing in honor of St. Francis. All pets must play well with others. If your pet is not able to join us, feel free to bring a picture for a blessing! All pets will be invited to remain in a single part of the worship space to allow for those with allergies and anxieties. Also! Keep your eyes open for a mailing as we begin our **Stewardship Season**. All pledges of financial support are due **November 15**. And besides that, just show up. Church isn't the same without you!

See you in church!

Pastor Jay

St. Francis Day and Blessing of the Animals ~ Sunday, October 4



We draw the Season of Creation to a close on Sunday, October 4. This is the Feast of Francesco d'Assisi—St. Francis of Assisi, patron of ecology, animals, and the poor. It is a fitting ending to this season wherein we have given thanks for, celebrated, and recommitted to care for creation as God's gift to us.

There are myriad stories told of St. Francis and his care for, connection with, love of, and partnership with creation—particularly the animal world. From preaching to a field of sparrows, to befriend a lone wolf as a brother, to (Pastor Jay's personal favorite) being the first to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass in a cave with farm animals to remember Jesus' birth in the created world, to crafting The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, St. Francis is inextricably linked to the creatures of God. One of the ways the church has come to celebrate St. Francis and God's gift in creation is with an annual opportunity to bless our animal companions. This blessing gives thanks for God's gift of our pets and companions and commits us to their care.

These rites of blessing take many forms in many places. This year, since St. Francis Day is on a Sunday, we will welcome our animal companions to worship with us in the morning. Together all of God's creatures will worship the Great Creator!

If anyone has allergies or anxieties, please know that it will not be an animal free-for-all on this Sunday. There are some stipulations we are putting in place to accommodate all people worshipping together on this day.

THE STIPULATIONS:

1. Due to the limitations of space, animal companions are only invited to the 10:30am worship service.
2. All animal companions must be leashed and/or crated for the duration of their time anywhere on Luther's campus.
3. All animal companions must play well with others. If your animal companion is not able to be around other animals, please bring a picture of them instead.
4. All animal companions and their humans must worship in a specified area of the worship space. This is in love and care for those with allergies and/or anxieties.
5. All humans are responsible for their animal companions while they are on the Luther Memorial campus—their interaction with others (humans and animals), their behavior, and any outings they may need to take. All humans must respect others (animals and humans) comfort around animals.

If any of these stipulations are not possible—or even if there is a question—please bring a picture of your animal companion to receive a blessing.

Oktoberfest Celebration

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

FELLOWSHIP HALL
11:30AM

DELICIOUS FOOD &
WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP
ENJOY!!



Our Annual Oktoberfest Celebration is coming up!

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

Warm Up



The first soup of the season is here and it's delicious, as always. Skip cooking on Sunday, October 18 and pick up a container of homemade soup. It'll warm you up from you head to your toes!

Feast of St. Luke, Physician



So, you may know this symbol as one of healing and/or the health professions. It's often found on ambulances and other emergency vehicles. But did you know it's actually an amalgam of several different symbols?

The central staff with wings is called a "cadeuceus" (kuh-DOO-shus). It is a winged wand used by the Greek god Hermes as part of his job as messenger of the gods. He was thought to be fast (literally fleet footed for the wings on his hat and sandals). So it is appropriate for those in emergency and medical professions. This central staff may or may not have snakes on it as a reference to a much older deity who morphed into Hermes.

A staff with one serpent is *technically* a sign of healers. It is known as The Rod of Asclepius. Asclepius is the Greek god of healing and healthcare. He is always seen with his serpent-entwined-rod. This is perhaps where barbershops got their red-and-white swirl as barbers were originally also surgeons and therefore would have a rod with a serpent as part of their symbol. Then it was stylized.



These long-standing symbols of healing and healthcare may or may not have a connection to our own use of a serpent-laced-staff in Judeo-Christianity. We have two stories of healing and wholeness that come from a serpent and a stick. The first is from Numbers where the people of God have transgressed (again) and are punished with being bitten by poisonous serpents. As a sign of healing, God has Moses make a serpent of bronze and put it atop a pole so that the people may gaze upon it and be healed.

Interestingly, this is a symbol that Jesus uses to foretell his own crucifixion. At least twice, Jesus alludes to this story of healing when we foretell his death. The first is in John 3. While talking with Nicodemus Jesus says, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." And again in chapter 12, Jesus tells his disciples and a crowd that have gathered to see him after the Triumphal Entry, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." In many early depictions, a serpent on a cross is shown in church-related art as a way to reference Jesus without naming him specifically as Christianity was still illegal.

On Sunday, October 18, we celebrate the Feast of St. Luke the Physician. Iconography around St. Luke often includes some serpentine-stick image as a reference to his life as a healer. There are other parts of his iconography, but perhaps those can be for another time.

We will share in a time of prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing for healing during both services on this Sunday. See you there!



HONORING OUR VETERANS



Our congregation is profoundly grateful for the women and men of our church family who have answered the call to serve in the United States Armed Forces.

We would like to recognize every church member who has served – whether decades ago or recently – in our November newsletter and in the bulletins on Sunday, November 8.

Please share your name and military branch before October 15. You can call the church office at 814-454-0106, extension 221 or email our church secretary, Norma Buerk, at nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org.

Music Notes

Presque Isle ProMusica



Drawing inspiration from the Erie Chamber Orchestra and the vision of Bruce Morton Wright, Presque Isle ProMusica was established in 2018 to continue the support and investment in our local and regional musicians as well as provide no cost performance opportunities to our community.

As 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our country, ProMusica will join with orchestras and organizations in each of the four corners of Pennsylvania in presenting two original compositions commissioned for Orchestra and Choir honoring our vast history.

We invite you to join us for **“Sing Democracy 250” on Saturday, October 17 at 7:00pm** at Luther Memorial Church.
A reception will follow.

A Haunting Harmonious Night

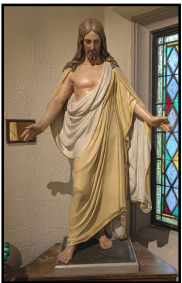
Saturday, October 24
7:00pm
Luther Memorial Church

Come in costume as the Contemporary Integrational Orchestra presents “October Spooktacular”. Halloween music at its finest; directed by Sally “Switchblade” Santon and conducted by Todd “Sweeney” Maki.

A reception will follow.



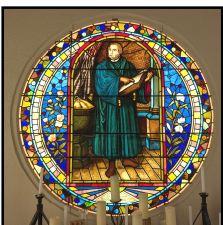
The Luther Chapel



You may have noticed over the past few months that there is space in the West Transept (the “bump out” at the front of the sanctuary). When was for a good while used as a dark storage space has taken shape with an altar, candles, and furnishings. Welcome to: the Luther Chapel.

Hopefully, this space can offer a more intimate space for worship, prayer, or just a pause in the hecticness of life. We have already been able to use it for several Evening Prayer services and other meditative experiences.

In the Luther Chapel you will find Devotional items from three different congregations who have come together to live as Luther Memorial: The *Christus* statue (a particularly dear depiction of Jesus from Scandinavia based on the original found in the Cathedral of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark) from Bethany Lutheran Church; The Crucifix (created from the wood of a felled tree on the property) from St. Matthew Lutheran Church; and the Luther Window (originally intended for the wall above the altar wall) from Luther Memorial Church.



You will also find a basket with various types of prayer beads, books, and inspirations to help guide you if you’d like in your use of this space. Additionally, you will notice a candle tree in the Luther Chapel. This is available at any point when the building is open if you would like to light a candle as a sign of your prayer. This act of lighting a candle is an ancient one in the Church. Like prayer beads, like incense, candles give a visual aspect to our prayer. We have something to focus on in prayer. Others can see that there is a need for prayer—even without knowing the specifics we are able to lift up a prayer alongside one another. And there is a lasting nature to the candles, the prayer continues even after we leave the space. So perhaps on your way into worship on Sunday, or after you’ve received Communion, or just before you leave, you are invited to light a candle and offer a prayer...or simply pause a moment for reflection and centering at any point in your week.

Pastries for a Purpose



**Monday, October 26
1:00 – 2:00pm
Luther Memorial Church
Parlor**

Have you ever considered being a foster grandparent? GECAC will share with us on October 26 how you can make a difference in a child's life. Whether you have a few hours a week or a special skill to share, there's a place for you.

Support students with your time, encouragement, and experience. Foster Grandparents serve in schools and community centers helping students build confidence, learn, and reach their potential. Training and support is provided by GECAC.

Join us on October 26 -- Come for the Pastries. Stay for the Purpose.

On Stewardship



When God creates the first earth creatures and sets them in the midst of the garden—the totality of creation, really—God gives even more as a gift. Not only does God give all of creation to the creatures of earth to use for their benefit, but God also gifts them with the call to be good stewards of those gifts. You see, we often remember that humanity is told in the first story of creation to “...subdue...and have dominion over...” BUT! in the second story of creation, humanity is made co-creators with God, given the task of naming and partnering with all the creatures of earth.

You see, that whole “subdue” and “have dominion” thing seems nice. It certainly serves us. It also would seem to give us free reign over the gifts God continually gives us. The thing is, if we over-use, over-exploit, waste, or bring to extinction any part of creation, well, then we don't have anything to have dominion over. Rather, we are called to lean into the tending and nurturing and caring and *stewarding* creation that it might come to full fruition.

Part of that stewardship of all of God's gifts to us comes in first recognizing their source: God. Put succinctly, everything we have comes first from God: our skill sets, our jobs, our income, our households, our homes, our food, our... All of it gifts from God. Recognizing their source—and that they are meant to be stewarded and not hoarded for self-gain—we are called to consider how we *use* those gifts.

And so we come to this season of the year when we give thanks to God the creator and source of all creation and of everything we have. And also the season in which we consider how we are able to give back of these gifts to God's mission and ministry through the Church, specifically Luther Memorial. In this newsletter you will find a pledge card. Over the next month (Pledge Sunday is November 15), prayerfully discern with your household what proportion of your household budget you are able to share with Luther Memorial for our ongoing mission. The amount is not the most important part (though should be prayerfully considered). The most important part is the commitment to give God a place of priority in your life by including the mission of God in your budget.

Additionally this year, there is a second side to the pledge of financial support. Prayerfully consider this as well. There are several options of specific needs that you can support. Each of these—from communion supplies to postage to utility bills—are some of the more mundane needs of our congregation to enable us to continue our ministry. These bills must be paid whether from our general operating fund (populated by pledges) or by direct and dedicated giving. The more of these needs that are covered. *in addition to* pledging, the less that comes from our general budget. Consider these. Additionally, in some cases (particularly those related to worship such as communion supplies, paper, etc.) it may be possible to include a memorial in the bulletin. (e.g. “Bulletins given to the glory of God and in memory of...” or “Communion supplies given to the glory of God and in honor of...”).

Pledge of Financial Support cards are on page 6 of the newsletter. This may be completed and returned to the church office by Sunday, November 15. Pledge of Financial Support will also be located at the welcome tables.

Thank you and thank God *for* you as we together prayerfully discern our financial support of Luther's ongoing mission and ministry.

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

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 our first Faith5: Cross+Gen gathering on:

October 11 – Candle Making for All Saint’s Day

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, October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.**

BIBLE AFTER DARK

We gather on the **FIRST TUESDAYS** of the Month at 6:30pm at Calamari’s Squid Row for conversation, fellowship, and mutual support among the saints! Make BAD part of your summer outings and **join us at Calamari’s on October 6.**

Bibles for our Third Graders

Bibles will be presented to children in third grade on All Saints’ Sunday, November 1, during the 10:30am service. Please contact Norma in the church office by Monday, October 19 if your son and/or daughter are in third grade so a Bible can be prepared for them. Thank you.



Confirmation Students



Classes for students in 9th and 10th grade will begin on Sunday, October 4. Confirmation students will gather each Sunday in October (4th, 11th and 18th) following the 10:30 service 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 25 when our youth will be confirmed

Confirmation students and their families are invited to attend a Confirmation Breakfast on Sunday, October 25 at 9:00am in the church parlor to celebrate this very special day.



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

Mary Lou Breyley who died Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Youth (and Family) Events

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, October 13
5:30 – 7:00pm

LIA continues to meet the second Tuesday of each month and focus on community based hands-on projects. Families are 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



**Tuesday, October 13 and
October 27**

flies by when you're visiting with friends. Join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00 noon.

Boo! Scare up some yarn and start on some prayer shawls and projects for the autumn weather. Bring your yarn projects while knitting and crocheting on Tuesday mornings with us. Time just

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 21
11:00am
Waterford Hotel



We're looking forward to visiting our local Waterford Hotel, 213 High Street, for a delicious lunch in October. You are invited to top off your meal with dessert at the home of Jeanne and Walt Gaber. Their home is on the way back to Erie. Make it a relaxing afternoon and join us!

Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or the church office by Friday, October 16.

Trunk-or-Treat



Sunday, October 18
Setup: 12:30pm
Treating: 1:00-2:00pm
Luther Memorial Parking Lot

What will you be for Halloween? A ghost, princess, vampire? Whatever your costume it will be perfect for our Trunk-or-Treat! AND – how about your car? Let's deck that out in Halloween style, too. Join us to hand out your treats . . . fill up your treat bag . . . and have a

ghoulishly 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. Scare up a great theme, dress in costume, (*there could be prizes*) get your favorite treats to hand out and join us. **Set up will begin at 12:30pm.**

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.

Women of the ELCA

Coming Together



The Deborah Circle and Tuesday Circle will combine for a W/ELCA General Meeting on **Tuesday, October 6, 2026 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 women 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 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.



Coats for Kids



As the colder months approach, many children in Erie County face winter without adequate outerwear. To help meet this critical need Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County is launching our annual **Coats for Kids Campaign**.

Luther Memorial Church and Academy will partner with ICM by collecting coats. From October 1-October 31 a bin will be located in the parlor hall area where the winter gear may be placed.

By partnering with Inter Church Ministries of Erie County we will help make a difference in the lives of the needy families in our communities. Together, we can ensure that no child faces winter without the warmth and protection they deserve.

Julia Cash Bash

**Saturday, October 10
5:00 – 9:00pm
St. Francis Ushers Club
9085 Main Street, McKean**



Plan for a delicious and fun evening out to support building the Julia Hospice and Palliative facility. Tickets are \$30 and include a full dinner, dessert, coffee, pop AND a chance to win cash prizes; 1st prize of \$1,000, 2nd prize of \$500 and 3rd prize of \$100.

Contact Linda Graffius at 814-440-5458 for tickets.

October Birthdays

Winifred Lyons 10-1		Judy Karney 10-8	Kara Partusch 10-19
Julie Chandler 10-1		Jack Cowan 10-8	Mark Howell 10-19
John Lowry 10-1		Jack Elliott 10-8	Diane Pirschel 10-19
Lois Schultz 10-1		John Downey 10-8	Tom Schlecht 10-20
Kristin Chaffee 10-2		Alaina DiTullio 10-9	Helen Collins 10-23
Melissa Michel 10-4		Doug Werle 10-11	Susanne Seward 10-23
Diane Parsons 10-4		Barb Moore 10-11	Asher Lay 10-23
Sarah Prylinski 10-4		Sarah Hagen 10-12	Martin Gaber 10-24
Jared Bonaminio 10-5		Lauren Burling 10-13	Ainsley Carolus 10-26
Susan Weber 10-6		Bonnie Silvis 10-13	Paul Huff 10-27
George Hedlund 10-6		Joseph Coverdale 10-14	Amy McDougall 10-27
Katherine Nicotra 10-6		Tom Klomp 10-14	Penelope Wolf 10-29
Brooke McCall 10-7		Mark Kay 10-16	Amy Swenson 10-29
Zachary Shchouchkoff 10-7		Amy Scott 10-16	Jaden Williams 10-29
Josh Stelmack 10-7		George Perry 10-17	Pam Masiroff 10-31

October Sunshine Birthdays

Lois Schultz 10/1 2601 Eastwind Circle Erie, PA 16506	Winifred Lyons 10/1 1142 West 21 st Street Erie, PA 16502		John Downey 10/8 P. O. Box 233 Fairview, PA 16415
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September 2026 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 6	24	52	23	99
September 13	24	63	34	121
September 20	27	84	32	143
September 27 (LMA Sun.)	26	262	21	309
AVERAGE	25	115	28	168



BAPTISMS: None recorded.

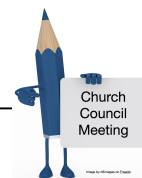
FUNERALS: BREYLEY, MARY LOU - Date of Death: September 10, 2026 / Date of Service: September 17, 2026 / Preaching: Pastor Brian Moran

HONORARIUM: FLICK, ANN & GARY - from:
Betty Pletz

MEMORIALS: BREYLEY, MARY LOU - from:
Jan & Skip MacInnes Gridley Chapter #3240ES
Marjorie Johnson Diana Alvaro
Nancy & Robert Benacci Cheryl Brown

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: CHAFFEE, EMMA & HEATH, CHUBBS - Date of Wedding: September 20, 2026 / Chaffee Home / Officiating: Pastor Jay C. Mitchell



August 2026 Council Meeting

1. **Council Meeting:** Minutes of the July 14, 2026 council meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Pastor's Report:**
 - a. Hosting Erie Lutheran Conference meetings about shared confirmation program;
 - b. Sunday School – doing things with the entire church;
 - c. BishCon will be held in October
 - d. Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Cogsil, will be visiting LMA on September 15 and will also be with the congregation for LMA graduation in June 2027.
3. **Church Directory:** Sunday, September 13 will be the last re-take day of pictures.
4. **Boiler Repair:** Has been on hold awaiting a welder. Hope to be completed within the next two (2) weeks.
5. **Renew Erie Building:** The shrubbery around the front corner of the Renew Erie building is to be removed the third week of September. Trees will also be planted in the greenspace area. Outlets have been installed on the outside of the building. Due to the recent storm part of the roof was damaged. The warranty is being looked into as well as quotes for repairs.
6. **LMA:** The mural at the 11th Street entrance of the school, painted by AJ Noyes, is completed. Current enrollment is 109 students. The LMA Block Party is Saturday, September 12. LMA Sunday is Sunday, September 27. Everyone is encouraged to attend the CROP Walk following the service on September 27. Miss Adams, 6th grade teacher, will be leaving LMA as an educator, but will continue to help with the school play.
7. **Early Connections:** Early Connections has requested use of our building as an emergency evacuation plan for their center. On motion it was unanimous that Early Connections may utilize either the 5th floor or the chapel as their emergency plan as soon as we receive their EOP and policies.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** YTD Net Income: ~ \$54,000 loss versus ~ \$57,000. YTD Income budgeted at \$335,413; we are at \$336,551.
 - a. The Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise accumulated \$5,007.25; paid out \$1,173.75. A check is being written to donate to Shriner's Children Hospital of Erie.
 - b. Erie Community Foundation funds at \$3,710,084.03. YTD Rate of Return is 4.1%, July 2025 ROR was 5.7%.
 - c. ~\$68,000 cash in a CD from Renew Erie. Running at a loss of \$2,517.22, due to repairs and maintenance.
9. **Cantor's Report:** There will be a slow start to handbells and adult choir due to schedule conflict. The LM Concert and Cultural Series has a number of performances planned; WNYNCO Orchestra, Contemporary Integrational Orchestra, and Angela Massey with a quartet. Some that have been at LM in the past are interested in returning.
10. **Church Council:** Some council member terms are ending; Emma Chaffee cannot re-up. Those that can re-up are Rob Cooney, Les Fobes, Tom Klomp, Nick Lang and Patrick Cimino. Length of terms can be 1, 2 and 3-years.
11. **Council Meeting:** The next council meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00pm.

Thank you

Dear Luther Memorial Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,405 to Lutheran Disaster Response. As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts 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.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude, *The Rev. Daniel Rift*, Director, Congregational Generosity



Luther Memorial Academy

"Small School. Big Heart. Where Students GROW in Everyway."



Picture Day

There's a lot to smile about at LMA. Give us a big smile on Monday, October 5 and share your happiness for LMA

Retakes will be on Monday, November 2.



Columbus Day

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

**Friday, October 9 and
Monday, October 12**



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 will be recognized for growth and enjoy some delicious pizza.



The Caring Place

Mrs. Noyes attended the Caring Place Annual Summit with two student representatives on Wednesday, September 30.



October Lunch Specials

Wednesday, October 7 – Pancake Bar

Orders and payment due Friday, October 2

Wednesday, October 21 – Tacos

Orders and payment due Friday, October 16

Wednesday, October 28

Orders and payment due Friday, October 23



Special lunches must be ordered and paid for ahead of time. Forms will be sent home with students.

Field Trips

We're busy learning new things outside of the classroom too:

October 1: Grade 5 will attend the Children's Water Festival at Asbury Woods;

October 2: Grades 2 and 3 will enjoy a day at Port Farms;

October 14: Grades 3 and 4 will head to Asbury Woods.



Pumpkin Walk 2026



Our 2nd and 8th grades will be carving pumpkins on October 7 for the Annual Pumpkin Walk held at Waldameer. Check out their carving skills at the **Pumpkin Walk at Waldameer Park on October 9 and 10 from 5:30 - 9:30pm, rain or shine!**

Hundreds of illuminated pumpkins, youth activities, presentations and food vendors will be set up. Attendees over three years of age and up; \$5 (cash, check or card).

Bowling Fundraiser

**Saturday, October 17
1:30 – 4:30pm
Greengarden Lanes
1583 West 38th Street**

This is sure to be a fun afternoon for everyone!

Three (3) games of bowling, including shoe rental:
\$15/kids \$25/adults

Choose how to make those strikes:

- Bowl with your family;
- Kid only lanes with bumpers available
- Adult only lanes



The kitchen and bar will be open. Come out and support LMA school and our sports program.

Halloween Dance

Friday, October 23
6:30 – 8:30pm
Middle School Students



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

Halloween Parade

**Friday, October 30 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. Following the parade, all students will return to their classrooms and be dismissed to ride line, bus, or after-school care as usual.

Special Visit

Cathedral Prep will visit our 7th and 8th grade students on Wednesday, October 21.



PTL Meeting

Our next PTL Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00pm.



Trunk-or-Treat with Luther Memorial



**Sunday, October 18
Car set up: 12:30pm
Treating: 1:00-2:00pm
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 12:30pm.**

Pastries for a Purpose



**Monday, October 26
1:00 – 2:00pm
Luther Memorial Church
Parlor**

Have you ever considered being a foster grandparent? GECAC will visit us on October 26 and share how you can make a difference in a child's life. Whether you have a few hours a week or a special skill to share, there's a place for you.

Support students with your time, encouragement, and experience. Foster Grandparents serve in schools and community centers helping students build confidence, learn, and reach their potential. Training and support is provided by GECAC.

Join us on October 26 - - Come for the Pastries. Stay for the Purpose.

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

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 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Gr. 5:30pm Handbells	2	3 10:00am Quilting
4 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:20am Choir Rehearsal	5 	6 10:00am Pericope 12:00pm W/ELCA General Meeting 6:30pm BAD	7	8 10:00am Diabetes Prog. 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Gr. 5:30pm Handbells	9 LMA Closed	10
11 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:20am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am FAITH5	12	13 10:00am Pericope 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 6:00pm Council Meeting	14 11:00am Student Council	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Gr. 5:30pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	16 	17 10:00am Quilting 1:30pm LMA Bowling Fundraiser 7:00 Presque Isle ProMusica Concert
18 8:15/10:30am Worship 1:00pm Trunk-or-Treat 1:00pm VASA	19 	20 10:00am Pericope	21 11:00am OWLs 1:45pm Cath. Prep Visit 4:15pm School Bd. 6:00pm PTL	22 10:00am Diabetes Prog. 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Gr. 5:30pm Handbells	23 6:00pm Concert Rehearsal 6:30pm LMA Halloween Dance	24 7:00pm CIOP Concert & Reception
25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Confirmation Breakfast	26 1:00pm Foster Grandparent Meeting	27 10:00am Pericope 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	28 11:00am Student Council 11:30am Pizza w/Principal & Pastor LMA End of Quarter	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Gr. 5:30pm	30 11:00am LMA Halloween Parade 11:30am LMA Dismissal	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i> 