

# Parish Banner for Jesus



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

Volume 44, Issue 8

December 2018 / January 2019

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

## SEPTEMBER – MAY

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

## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

MUSIC MINISTRY Page 6

## MONTHLY EVENTS

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

## STAFF

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*"The long unmeasured pulse of time moves everything. There is nothing hidden that it cannot bring to light, nothing once known that may not become unknown. Nothing is impossible."* Sophocles

In this season of intentional Thanksgiving I wanted to say thank you to the congregation of Luther Memorial Church and the school community of Luther Memorial Academy. I am not one for anniversaries per se, but I was reminded this past week that I have been your pastor for ten years. It doesn't feel like ten years to me, as it feels much less, which means I am blessed to be working in a place where "time flies because I am having fun." A common observation by so many of us is how quickly time goes by. Children and grandchildren grow in a blink of an eye, and before we know it, ten or twenty or thirty years have passed. People we have loved have died, and we wonder how could that have happened? Jobs we thought we were going to have forever, suddenly disappear. Health which was good just a year ago has taken some unexpected turns. But along with some of those difficult changes have come some wonderful ones as well... a new child or grandchild, a wedding, a new job, and something I am grateful for.... deep friendships that we have formed with one another.

I don't know the details of how our days will unfold into the next ten, twenty, and thirty years, but I do know I am surrounded and supported and loved by a wonderful group of people that I work with and minister to, and I wanted to make sure you know how thankful I am for that. I want you to know that I very much appreciate you, and maybe, just maybe, the love and kindness that we show to one another is the reason why a positive and strong spirit exists here, and why God continues to move new people into our lives. Whatever is around the corner for me and for you, we won't turn the corner alone. I know we have lonely moments, but when we are a part of the community of Jesus, we will never, ever be alone. Peace, joy and love be with you all.

## It's Almost Christmas!

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### HANGING OF THE GREENS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

The entire family can take part in this excitement as we prepare for the holiday season. Join us on Sunday, December 2 following services as we decorate our church for Christmas.



### HOLIDAY COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Please join us in the parlor following the 8:15 and 10:30am services for fellowship and a festive Coffee Hour, sponsored by our Congregational Life Committee.



## St. Lucia Festival

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**St. Lucia Festival**  
**Sunday, December 9, 2018**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Luther Memorial Church**



For many, many years Lucia has brought faith, hope, and a reason to believe in good things to come. It is thought that during a time when the rulers of the land did not look favorably upon Christianity, a woman named Lucia had devoted her life to God and the poor. She gave her entire dowry to the poor.

The Festival of St. Lucia begins the Christmas season in Swedish custom. A well-lit ship on Lake Vannern approached the shore carrying a woman at the helm dressed in white with a glow around her head. The maiden, widely believed to be Lucia, distributed food and clothing to the needy, thus endearing herself to the Swedish people. Many families today celebrate St. Lucia in their homes.

Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays. We invite you to join us for this annual event.

Youth and young children participate in this traditional Swedish program.

Rehearsals will be held at 11:45am Sunday, December 2 and Sunday, December 9.

All participants are asked to be at the church by 3:00pm to prepare for the program on December 9.

Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations.

## Blue Christmas Service

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**Wednesday, December 12**  
**6:00pm**  
**Main Church**

*"Comfort, comfort my people, says God."*

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what

happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort.

Perhaps we are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays.

*We invite you to gather with us for our Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 12.  
Please feel free to speak with Pastor Coleman or Linda Graffius with any questions.*



## Sharing Christmas

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Our Care Ministers visit our many Sunshine members and have developed close relationships with them. We continue to care about our members out of town remembering them through cards. Pastor Coleman and Linda Graffius also regularly visit those in the hospital. During the holiday season we hope to brighten their days by dropping off cheer baskets and poinsettias. It would be appreciated if you would be able to assist our Care Ministry team by helping with these special deliveries:

**Cheer Baskets** will be ready for delivery on Sunday, December 16.

Please contact Linda Graffius, 454-0106, ext. 229 or the church office, ext. 221, if you are able to help with the preparation and/or delivery of the cheer baskets.



**Cookie Donations** are needed for our cheer baskets. You are welcome to drop these off in the church office. Thank you.



**Poinsettias** are traditionally delivered the week following Christmas and may be taken from the church following the 10:30pm Christmas Eve service. Please contact Norma in the church office if you would like to help with these deliveries.

## Mitten Tree

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During the Christmas season our **Mitten Tree** is adorned with beautiful hats, scarves, mittens and gloves which are donated to the Bethany Outreach Center. These warm donations will be distributed to those in need at the Outreach Center. Our Mitten Tree is ready for decorating, and we thank you for your generosity.

**Blankets** may also be placed in the box near the Mitten Tree. These will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center for those in need.

## Kids for Kids

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Thank you to everyone for their kindness and generosity during Our Kids for Kids collection. Our Luther Memorial Youth, Pastor Coleman, Beth Keller and Sarah Prylinski did some very special shopping to bring a merry Christmas to some wonderful families. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please drop this off in the church office or place in the offering plate marked "Kids for Kids". All donations are used to purchase gifts for families of Luther Memorial and LMA in need this Christmas.

## Christmas Eve Services

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### *The Nativity of Our Lord* *Monday, December 24, 2018* *Main Church*

5:30 P.M.	PIANO & ORGAN MUSIC CANTOR, WALT GABER
6:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE Join with us as we sing His name in praise
10:00 P.M.	PIANO & ORGAN MUSIC CANTOR, WALT GABER
10:30 P.M.	CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH LESSONS AND CAROLS Traditional lessons, music and hymns proclaiming the birth of Christ

We invite you to come, worship, and celebrate the birth of our Lord.



## 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 \$7.00 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 9.** 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:

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) in honor of:

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Plants Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ WILL TAKE ORDER

\_\_\_\_\_ GIVE TO SHUT-INS

\_\_\_\_\_ WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS

## Christmas Ham Sale

Be sure to order a delicious Smith ham to make your Christmas meal complete. Proceeds benefit our youth. Order forms are located at the hospitality tables or order from any youth member.



**Orders taken through Sunday, December 9**  
**Ham Delivery: Sunday, December 16**

	<u>Approximate Size</u>	<u>Price Per Pound</u>
Whole semi-boneless	13 lbs.	\$4.00
Half semi-boneless	7.5 lbs.	\$4.20
Whole Gourmet boneless	6.5 lbs.	\$4.75
Half Gourmet boneless	4 lbs.	\$4.95

## New Member Classes

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Luther Memorial has scheduled these classes for the purpose of creating opportunities to invite those people God places into your lives into the fellowship of this ministry. Authentic evangelism happens when each disciple invites and welcomes others to hear about God's love and forgiveness. It is as simple as that. This is a ministry growth strategy! You are an evangelist! You are on the evangelism committee!

### New Member Information Classes

11:45am ~ Chapel

February 17, 2019

May 5, 2019

September 1, 2019

November 17, 2019

### New Members Received

10:30am Worship ~ Sanctuary

March 3, 2019

May 19, 2019

September 15, 2019

December 1, 2019

## Luther Memorial ReCharge

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Luther Memorial Recharge is being offered based on the following observations:

- The number of people who attend Sunday morning worship continues to stagnate or fall.
- Sunday morning is filled with many other activities and events. Sunday is no longer the day of rest.
- Integrating an "inquirer of faith" into our Sunday morning worship is difficult. People who don't even know who Jesus is or know very little about the Church could find it difficult to understand what is going on.
- Churches who play around with worship styles thinking that it will "bring people into the church" fail to realize that people are seeking a relationship with Jesus first. Connecting people to Jesus and to one another is what is most important, not the worship style, per se, but the connection that is made to the Word... to Jesus.
- Luther Memorial Church's worship style is very meaningful and we do it very well, and to mess around with what happens on Sunday morning would be foolish and counterproductive. The Lutheran Church has wonderful theology, in that, we believe in the tension between Law and Gospel and the Theology of the Cross. We do not believe in the Prosperity Gospel and there is a deep need to continue doing what we do well.
- An opportunity to worship and connect to Jesus in a smaller community on a late Sunday afternoon could be meaningful and expand Luther Memorial's mission to make disciples.

### ReCharge on Sunday, December 2



*Share the Christmas joy; bring some friends.* We invite you to join us for a very special Christmas ReCharge service on Sunday, December 2. We will begin the evening at 4:00pm with Christmas caroling and then warm up with a cocoa bar and snacks. Our worship service will be held in the main church at 5:00pm.

ReCharge will also be held Sunday, January 6, 2019:

#### Time:

4:00-5:00pm

Food and Fellowship

5:00-6:00pm

Worship



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

Lorraine Johnson, wife, and Marjorie Johnson, mother, on the death of Alan Johnson  
Elvin Montero on the death of his dad, Jaime Robles



## Music in Worship

### Advent and Christmas Choir Opportunity

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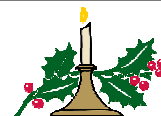


Please consider enriching your Advent and Christmas experience by singing in the choir for these seasons. A short-term commitment of Thursday evening rehearsals (7:00 - 8:30pm) will enable you to prepare and present this much-loved music. Rehearsals of this music begin on November 29 and you are welcome to join us. We all know that this is an extremely busy time of year - but what better antidote to the ubiquitous commercialism of Christmas than to set aside time to reflect musically on the real meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

### St. Matthew's Advent Music

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Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, the choir will present anthems from the former St. Matthew's choral library. In addition, the St. Lucia festival service will also include music from this library. We continue to be thankful for this contribution of music to our worship resources.



### Christmas Eve Concerts

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Every year, our Christmas Eve services are preceded by a concert of Christmas music. This year, the piano and small pipe organ will be used to present quiet, intimate carols and lullabies. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early to hear the full programs, one at 5:30 and the other at 10:00pm. As usual, the services will include music by our choir and handbell choir.

### Presque Isle ProMusica

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Although it has taken longer than originally hoped, the Presque Isle ProMusica chamber orchestra now has a schedule of concerts for the 2018-2019 season. About 400 concertgoers attended a summer kick-off concert on the grounds of WQLN. The next concert, Gian Carlo Menotti's one-act operetta "Amahl and the Night Visitors" will be presented at two venues:



1. Friday, January 4, 7:00pm at Luther Memorial Church
2. Sunday, January 6, 4:00pm at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church (*near the Mercyhurst campus*)

In this opera, Amahl is a young disabled boy who encounters the three magi on their way to visit the Christ Child. Needing a place to stay for the night, the kings with their gifts are hosted by Amahl and his mother. Please invite friends and family to join you for a celebration of the Epiphany with this musical performance.

## Christian Education

### Children's Christmas Pageant

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**Sunday, December 16  
10:30am Worship Service**

December comes so quickly, and with it the great anticipation of Christmas. All of our preparations keep us busy, and we sometimes forget to stop and remember why we celebrate. Our children would like to share the Christmas story with you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please join us for a very special worship service on December 16 at 10:30am.



## Confirmation

**Class Time:** Saturday nights from 6:00-9:00pm  
**Class Location:** St. John Lutheran Church  
 2216 Peach Street

Our Confirmation Class is partnering with the youth and pastors of the Erie Lutheran Parish by having one confirmation program, which will build good relationships for Confirmation Camp at Lutherlyn and the National Youth Gathering in 2021. Luther Memorial's confirmation program is for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.



### Schedule of Confirmation Classes

12/8/2018 Class, Food, Fun, and Fellowship  
 1/12/2019 Class, Food, Fun, and Fellowship

## Adult Spiritual Growth

Adult Spiritual Growth class is held each Sunday at 9:15am in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. We will be digging more deeply into Advent during the month of December. Pastor Coleman appreciates all those who have been attending these classes and is thankful for so many interested in deepening their spiritual growth.

Sunday	Topic	Teacher
12/2/2018	Study and Discussion of Advent Bible Lessons	Pastor Coleman
12/9/2018	Study and Discussion of Advent Bible Lessons	Pastor Coleman
12/16/2018	Study and Discussion of Advent Bible Lessons	Pastor Coleman
12/23/2018	No Class	
12/30/2018	No Class	



## Baptism Celebration

Sunday, January 13, 2019



The day of your baptism is very special and should be celebrated. We invite all those who were baptized at Luther Memorial in 2018, along with their families, to a Baptism Celebration during our 10:30 worship service on Sunday, January 13.

## Pastor's Book Club



Our next book club gathering will be on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019** at 6:00pm at Luther Memorial Church. We will be reading *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. For our next gathering in January we will read up to page 143. If you are interested in being more active in the ministry of Luther Memorial Church and meeting new people, please join us. We meet once every five weeks for great conversation and fellowship.

## Super Wednesdays ~ January 9, 2019



Our next **Super Wednesday** will be held January 9 at 5:30pm with a meal, followed by faith conversations and prayer. Kids will have time together with Sarah Prylinski and Beth Keller. This is a relaxed and multi-generational event and exists to more deeply form community. You need to eat anyway, so why not step out of your comfort zones and schedules and give it a try! The main dish and drinks on Super Wednesdays will be provided and people who are able are invited to bring a dish to share.

*The Super Wednesday schedule includes the following:*

### The schedule includes the following:

5:30 to 6:15pm Meal  
 6:15 to 7:15pm Devotional Time / Activities for Kids  
 7:15 to 8:15pm Committee Meetings



Join us Wednesdays: January 9, 2019, February 6, 2019,  
 March 6, 2019 (Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Worship Only), April 3, 2019, May 1, 2019

## Luther Memorial Church Website

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Luther Memorial Church's website is a great way to stay connected and to share information about our ministry with others. Here are just a few benefits of checking out the website from time to time: Luther Memorial Church's monthly church newsletter, the Northwest PA Synod newsletter, the church calendar with all the daily events each month, and electronic giving through paypal. The website converts wonderfully to I-Phones, tablets and other handheld devices. Finally, you can access the church picture and phone directories under the "Resources" tab of the website. Both files are password protected, and you may contact the church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 for this password. Finally, Luther Memorial Church maintains an active Facebook page, so check that out as well.

## Did You Know

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- that Luther Memorial member, Ellen DiPlacido, and a group of very dedicated volunteers harvest 2,726 pounds of fruits and vegetables at the Emmaus Grove Garden located behind the Emmaus Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry and helping out next season please contact Pastor Coleman.
- that the program called ELCA Good Gifts is a great way to give to others at Christmas by giving to those in need. The ELCA Good Gifts program grows the church, fights hunger and transforms lives. For more information about ELCA Good Gifts go to [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)

## New Banners in the Faith Chapel

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St. Matthew's Lutheran Church brought many beautiful banners to Luther Memorial Church. Arlene Evans, formerly of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Luther Memorial church member, shared with Pastor Coleman the following information about the two banners located in the Faith Chapel. Arlene writes: "The Justice Banner is a memorial to Pastor Jerry Caughlan, who came to Erie to serve St. John Lutheran Church and various other churches as an interim pastor. Pastor Martin Milne and Kate Caughlan decided that the banner should be about Jerry's passion for justice as written in Amos 5:24: *"but let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."* The Hands Banner was created in honor of Kate Caughlan given by her children. Kate chose Ruth 1:16: *"for where you go I will go and your people shall be my people and your God, my God."* The hands on the banner reach toward God to honor the diverse people who came into their lives over the years. Both banners were designed by Kate Caughlan's good friend Penny Patschke. Kate Caughlan now lives in a senior residence in Baltimore. When asked where she wanted the banners to go, without hesitation, she said they should go with St. Matthew's and belong to their welcoming congregation Luther Memorial Church."

## Luther Memorial Church 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Renovation

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During the November 2018 Luther Memorial Church council meeting it was approved to redesign and renovate the 5<sup>th</sup> floor room. Currently the 5<sup>th</sup> floor room has two offices, a classroom for Luther Memorial Academy and is used for small meetings. After the renovation the 5<sup>th</sup> floor room will be used for the ReCharge worship, the music room for Luther Memorial Academy, choir practices and small groups and meetings. The renovation will bring improvements with lighting and sound and technology. The improvements will begin in January of 2019. You can see the blueprint plans for the room on an easel in the church parlor. We are grateful for the many ways God continues to move among us and bless us in so many ways!



## Women of the ELCA

### Tuesday Evening Circle News

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**December Meeting:** Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00pm     **January :** A circle meeting will not be held.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, January 9, 2019 at 3:00pm in the church parlor.

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



At the November 6 meeting twenty (20) stockings were filled for the residents of Warren State Hospital; 10 for men residents and 10 for women residents. Thank you to everyone who donated items for these stockings and making Christmas a little more special.

### Deborah Circle

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY:

**Tuesday, December 4**  
6:30pm

For more information, contact Judy Johnson  
at 833-4600



### Pennies for Poverty

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

### Monastery of the Heart

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Monastery of the Heart welcomes you to join us for this spiritual growth group as we continue to study prayer using the book *"The Breath of the Soul, Reflections on Prayer"* by Joan Chittister as our guide.

**When:** 11:00am on Tuesday, December 18 and January 15

**Where:** Luther Memorial Church Parlor

Please join us for any of the gatherings. For further information contact Linda Graffius at 454-0106, ext. 229.



### Magic Fingers Grace Group

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Cold, windy, blustery weather just puts you in the mood to knit some nice warm shawls; maybe even some mittens and a scarf. Join us for our Magic Fingers Grace Group and enjoy wonderful conversation and friendships while you get creative. Magic Fingers meets twice a month to knit, crochet, embroider or work on a favorite craft of your own. If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you.

Stop down the second and fourth Tuesday of each month and check it out; December 11, January 8 and January 22 at 10:00am.

Please contact Jan MacInnes, 454-0106, ext. 233 or the church office, ext. 221 with any questions.

### OWLS ~ Older, Wiser Lutherans

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It's time to "make merry"! A delicious tureen luncheon, friends, and fun with our white elephant gift exchange is definitely a merry afternoon!



**Date:** Wednesday, December 19  
**Time:** 11:30am  
**Place:** Luther Memorial Church parlor  
**Please bring:** A dish to share  
White elephant gift marked for a man or woman

Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes (454-0106, ext. 233) or the church office by Friday, December 14.  
OWLS meet the third Wednesday of each month.

## From Pat Bellingham

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We are getting great ideas for putting together a Healthy Women curriculum that can be shared among the four (4) conferences. Previously, our Healthy Women event was held in Pleasantville in February. Sometimes it was difficult to get all four (4) conferences to be able to make the trek. So we're going to put together a program that will be shared with everyone and each can have an event in their area. Of course, anyone can go to any W/ELCA event at any time, no matter where you live.

Tracy Heutsche, our Nominating Chair, is going to be looking for the slate of officers for the June Convention. Offices up for grabs are President, Treasurer, Board member from Conference 1 (that's us), and Board member from Conference 4 (the Indiana, PA area). Please prayerfully consider serving, it's a blast!

Convention 2019 will be held June 7-8 at Olmsted Manor. Our program will be "Visitors From the Past" presented by Luella Krieger. Since she is so dynamic and everyone is going to want to be there, there will be no other Saturday workshops. There will be a workshop on Friday evening. So save the date, and plan on joining us!

Lutherlyn Retreat 2019 is looking for a representative from NWPA for the coming September retreat with South West. You would be working with Mary Alice McMunn, Cambridge Springs, and three (3) ladies from South West. It is a 2-year commitment with the second year taking on the responsibility of being the Retreat Chair. No lie, it is a huge responsibility, but it is also a great opportunity to bring faith, song, prayer, and spirituality to a hundred women!

Lily Project is now officially national. Check out the news article from Iowa and our Sisters there who have replicated our program. <https://www.kimt.com/content/news/Crisis-Intervention-Services-and-church-partnering-with-Lily-Bags-498600241.html>

The Human Trafficking presentation on October 24 was a great success. Theresa Flores, our presenter, led a dynamic program about her experiences as a victim of trafficking. We are officially a SOAP charter. We have been given the materials and power points so that we might spread her message, approach hotels and motels, and be the 'boots on the ground' to help bring about awareness. The conference had 38 people attending and we now have one (1) team willing to go out to businesses to share what we know. I have met with Carol Finotti (Crime Victims Center) and Betsy Wiest, SSJ, to collaborate our endeavors.

Our ladies continue to drop soaps off at various rest stops. When speaking with Betsy Wiest, I learned that she is taking data that will be used to support Human Trafficking legislation; recording how many restrooms on the Pennsylvania interstates actually post the help-line posters as they should be - in the stalls and/or by the sinks. They should NOT be in the lobby or by the opening of the restroom doors. The handlers will not let girls/boys in there if they see that the help-line posters are available. If you are interested in being part of the data collection, please see me. You will not be hanging posters or moving what's already there, you will just need to note on a document what you observe. This data is used by Pennsylvania only and only Pennsylvania facilities are counted.

The Conference 1 Gathering was held on October 13 at the Colony Restaurant with 25 participants. A planning committee was organized for the next three (3) years so that there is a staggered membership - as it is supposed to be. Actually, six (6) people volunteered to be on the committee!! WooHoo, that's a first!

*Peace, through Christ,  
Pat*

## Women of the ELCA

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If you are a woman, if you are a Lutheran, you ARE a Woman of the ELCA. There is a place for you in this community of women, women that have been created in the image of God! There are ways for you to get connected. First, contact Luther Memorial member Pat Bellingham who is the President of the Northwest PA Synod's Women of the ELCA to see how you can get involved in this very active ministry, and second, find out more information at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). If you don't know who Pat Bellingham is just ask Norma Buerk or Pastor Coleman to make the connection.

## Gratitude: 'Tis a Gift to be Thankful

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By the time you are reading this, Thanksgiving will be over. But that doesn't mean that the season of thankfulness is over. Christmas is coming, and we continue to be thankful for our blessings. Many people only express their thankfulness or gratitude around these two special holidays, but there is reason to experience and express it on a daily basis. Over the past decade, science has found that practicing gratitude has a positive influence on our mood, outlook, relationships and overall happiness, all of which can buffer against depression and anxiety.

In one 2008 study, British researchers concluded that gratitude has a strong association with well-being and social functioning, and a person's measure of gratitude can predict life satisfaction. In another study, they also found that people who score higher on gratitude measures tend to sleep better. An analysis of Swiss adults published in the journal, Personality and Individual Differences, linked the "attitude of gratitude" to better physical health in part related to better psychological health.

Practicing gratitude also appears to contribute to promoting resilience. A study in the Journal of Research in Personality (April 2013) connected the roles of gratitude and "grit". Grit was defined as having long term interests and passion and a willingness to push past setbacks in order to progress toward goals. Researchers from George Madison University noted that: Gratefulness helps you to appreciate and seek out the good aspects in life, while grit helps to accept and overcome frustrations. In other words, an attitude of gratitude can help you stay focused on your goals and not let life drag you down.

One of the most powerful and popular tools for cultivating thankfulness is keeping a gratitude journal. Another one that I prefer is to thank God in prayer for what we are grateful for, no matter how small or simple.

I know I am grateful for the wonderful, caring people here at Luther Memorial. Recently after a funeral luncheon a family member, not a LM member, said to me, "your church really knows how to care for a family." This made me feel so proud to be part of such a caring, thoughtful and thankful community. I was smiling so big when I shared this with those who were working and with anyone else who would listen. And smiling is good for us too because we use fewer muscles and less energy to smile than to frown, so why waste the energy frowning. And so I would like to thank all of you who give so much of your time to making Luther Memorial a caring congregation. And I would like to encourage the rest of you to become involved and reap the benefits of giving and receiving gratitude.

On a more serious note, yes, there will be times when we are sad or depressed over various things like the passing of a loved one, the change in a job or financial troubles and that is why we offer the Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00pm. Bring your problems and offer them up to God and leave feeling thankful for his love and for this community.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a New Year full of love and gratitude.

*Blessings,*

*Linda Graffius, RN Faith Community Nurse*

*Coordinator of Care and Health Ministry*

Resource: [www.hopetocope.com](http://www.hopetocope.com)

Esperanza-hope to cope with anxiety and depression. Matthew Solan

## Blood Pressure Screenings

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Stay healthy - blood pressure screenings will be offered by our parish nurses on **Sunday, December 9 and Sunday, January 13.**

## Tasty Treats

### Ready for Some Football?

Fuel the excitement of those football games. Stanganelli's has everything you need – just place your order with our youth and you'll be sure to score a touchdown with your friends.

**Pepperoni Balls (14 count) - \$14**

Plain / Cheese & Pepperoni / Hot Cheese & Pepperoni  
Ham & Cheese

**Pizzas / cheese & pepperoni (14") - \$8.50**



**Wings (2.5 lbs.) - \$10**

Hot, Butter & Garlic

**10" Subs - \$6.50**

Combo / Meatball / Sausage & Peppers

Orders will be accepted through Sunday, January 20.

Items may be picked up at the church on Sunday morning, February 3, from 8:30am -12:00pm.

### "Souper" Bowl

**Sunday, January 20  
11:30am**

**Fellowship Hall**

The perfect time of year for  
a hot bowl of soup.



Perfect time of the year for some nice hot soup!  
And what better place to sample some new recipes than at our  
annual "Souper" Bowl Tasting Event.

Cook up your favorite and bring it along for everyone to sample.  
Remember your recipe to share.

### Annual Congregational Meeting



**Sunday, January 27, 2019  
Joint Worship Service at 10:30am**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH WILL BE IN SESSION**

**ANNUAL MEETING - 11:30AM**

**CHILI & SALAD LUNCHEON - FREE (RSVP, PLEASE)**

All members of Luther Memorial Church are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27 after the 10:30 worship service. Please note that we will NOT have the 8:15am worship service that morning, but one combined worship service at 10:30am in the main church. Following worship, the Annual Meeting will be held in fellowship hall. The agenda will include presentation of 2018 reports, election of Church Council members, and a review of the proposed 2019 budget. Following the meeting, a chili and salad luncheon, served by our youth, will be available. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the meal. Please join us to review the year and look ahead and plan for the ministry year of 2019!

To make your meal complete, the youth will be having a **BAKE SALE**.  
Treat yourself and pick up some home-made goodies.



### Gonna Be a Busy Day!

We have a lot to do on Sunday, January 27.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in fellowship hall following the 10:30 worship service.

- ❖ **CHILI & SALAD LUNCHEON** will be served following the meeting; all youth are asked to help with preparation, serving and clean-up.
- ❖ **BAKE SALE:** All youth are asked to please bring home-made baked goods for the sale which will be held during the luncheon. Time to get creative in the kitchen.



## Winter Youth Retreat

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Friday, January 25 - Sunday, January 27, 2019  
Camp Lutherlyn



**Registration:** Friday, January 25  
7:00-8:00pm  
**Event Ends:** Sunday, January 27 at 1:00pm  
**Cost:** \$120 includes 2 nights, 5 meals, and all program costs  
**Grades 4 - 12** Campers will be divided by age groups for the weekend

**Registration due to Beth Keller by Sunday, January 6, 2019**

GAGA ball in the snow, Bible study, the bouldering room, songs, worship, friends, indoor and outdoor games, lots of your summer camp favorites, and fun in the wonderful winter weather!

## Supporting our Veterans

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Contributions are being gathered for care packages which will be donated to the VA Hospital in Erie for Christmas. Our Christmas gifts will be delivered to the Men's Fifth Floor Unit. **Donations may be dropped off Sunday, October 14 - Sunday, December 2.** Please contact Jan MacInnes, 833-0476, or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221, with any questions.

### NEW CLOTHING FOR MEN:

- Short Sleeve Colored Tees: size Medium to XXXL (NO white tees)
- Elastic Waistband Sweatpants / no draw string: size Medium to XXXL, XL (4 needed), XXL (5 needed)
- Flannel Lounge Pants: size Medium to XXXL
- Colored Crew Sweatshirts: size Medium to XXXL (NO white ones), XXXL (4 needed)
- Hoodeis with Zip Front XL (4 needed), XXL (5 needed)

### COMFORT ITEMS/PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR MEN:

- Brut, English Leather, Old Spice Aftershave
- Large boxes of Kleenex

- Gillette razors or other name brand disposable razors; NOT generic
- Travel Size: Body wash/Body Lotion, Deodorant (non-aerosol), Shampoo, Shaving cream
- AXE Deodorant & Body wash
- Denture cleaning tablets
- Dental Cream
- Baby Wipes
- Toothbrushes - Soft to Medium bristles
- Combs, Hairbrushes
- Nail Clippers, Emery Boards
- Hand Sanitizer Lotion
- Small Mouthwash

### OTHER ITEMS:

- Relaxation CD's: Piano, nature; soothing music

- Sketch Pads, Pens, Large Print Word Search Books, Easy Crossword Books

### FOOD ITEMS (Please be sure all food items are NOT expired):

- Peanut Butter Crackers (small packs)
- Ho-Ho's, Twinkies/chocolate
- Hersey chocolate bars (small bars)
- Hot cocoa packs/regular & sugar free

### GIFT CARDS :

- Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, McDonalds, Dollar Tree (to pick up personal items or snacks)
- Cracker Barrel/they go monthly

Thank you to everyone for their donations for the Veterans in our local VA Medical Center. It is so good that we can bring a little sunshine and joy into their lives and let them know we care.





**December Birthday Celebrations for Our Sunshine Members:**

Megan Cunningham	12/1	Ely Cooney	12/12	Cheryl Momeyer	12/21
Nathan Helsley	12/1	Frank DiCenzo	12/12	Rose-Marie Rose	12/21
Erich Pirschel	12/1	Samuel Laver	12/12	Giovanna DePaul	12/23
Maryann Fried	12/2	Kathy Morey	12/12	Christopher Fuhrman	12/24
Austin Held	12/2	Benjamin Davis	12/13	Christine Hickey	12/24
Michael Pirschel	12/2	Lupe Eagle	12/13	Evelyn Michael	12/24
Jack Tell	12/3	John McKibben	12/13	Ryan Robie	12/24
Tim Thomas, Jr.	12/3	Donald MacInnes	12/14	Christine Snyder	12/24
Harold Schnabel	12/4	Howard McConnell	12/14	Melanee McCracken	12/25
Rose Lintelman	12/5	Mark Cadden	12/16	Denise King	12/26
Adam Franks	12/6	Ron Colicchio	12/16	Susan McConnell	12/26
Ben Morgan	12/6	Annabelle Cooney	12/16	Luke Huston	12/28
Lydia Meyer	12/7	Joshua Graffius	12/16	Matthew Kinzig	12/28
Sabashton DePaul	12/8	Natalie Montero	12/16	Madilyn Mantsch	12/29
Xyla Lombardozzi	12/8	David Seyler	12/16	Maura Myhoffer	12/29
Linda Melaragno	12/8	Brian Franks	12/17	Dylan Ambrose	12/30
Thomas Coffey	12/9	Gina Sims	12/17	Evan Andrae	12/30
Laura Dascanio	12/9	Robert Kraut	12/18	Mindy Boyd	12/30
Lois Fobes	12/9	Jacob O'Brien	12/18	Danielle Graffius	12/30
Marc Collins	12/10	Jonathan Hagen	12/19	Megan Ross	12/30
Darlee Duffin	12/10	George Kurtich	12/19	Trina Rinderle	12/31
Christine Satur	12/10	Jordan Sturm	12/19		

**January Birthday Celebrations for Our Sunshine Members:**

David Coffey	1/1	Aiden Montero	1/12	Sara Wettekin	1/23
Anne Daniel	1/1	Carol Davidson	1/14	Rebecca Brown	1/24
Amy Kurtich	1/1	Robert Alvaro	1/17	Judith McKibben	1/24
Natalie Bartlett	1/2	Jack Bartlett	1/17	Ava Romba	1/24
Nancy Come	1/2	Catherine McAdoo	1/17	Gabriel Fracassi	1/25
Madison Chaffee	1/5	Cheryl Brown	1/18	David Kinzig	1/25
Jerry Keller	1/6	Alan Eagle	1/18	Barbara Walter	1/26
Leo Blore	1/7	Brian Davidson	1/19	Dominic Barbaro	1/27
Caleb DiCenzo	1/10	Richard O'Leary	1/19	Jan MacInnes	1/27
Joanne Dahlstrand	1/11	Timothy Dugan	1/20	Kathy Weismanq	1/27
Ben Gustafson	1/11	Andres Duran	1/20	Chris Andrejewski	1/28
Chloe Meucci	1/11	Mary Pheasant	1/20	Tammy Hessinger	1/28
Anton Partusch, III	1/11	Tamara Wettekin	1/21	Steve Narusewicz	1/28
Krista Partusch	1/11	Spencer Cadden	1/23	Sarah Heintzel	1/29
Joan Chalikian	1/12	Zackary Helsley	1/23	Meadow McCracken	1/29
Matthew Lasher	1/12	Felix Schill	1/23	Nathan Muhanna	1/30
Cathy MacGregor	1/12	Fiona Schill	1/23	Christopher Young	1/30

**December & January Sunshine Birthday Celebrations:**

LAURA DASCANIO 12/9  
517 Maryland Avenue  
Apt. 541  
Erie, PA 16505

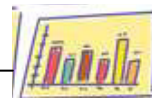


KATHY MOREY 12/12  
21 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apt. 707  
Erie, PA 16501

EVELYN MICHAEL 12/24  
Niagara Village Retirement Ctr.  
2380 Village Common Dr., Apt. 220  
Erie, PA 16506

ANNE DANIEL 1/1  
1132 Grant Avenue  
Erie, PA 16505

## November 2018 Statistics



### ATTENDANCE:

	<u>8:15 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>4:00 P.M. RECHARGE</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
November 4	53	186	34	16	289
November 11	32	144		21	197
November 18	29	149		21	199
November 25	30	121		(nursery) 1	152

### BACH CANTATA VESPERS

November 25	105	105
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BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: **JOHNSON, ALAN** - Date of Death:  
November 2, 2018 / Date of Funeral: November 7, 2018  
/ Pastor William E. Coleman

### MEMORIALS:

**SCHAAL, WILLIAM A.** - FROM:

Mollie & Paul King	Lois & Les Fobes
Phyllis & William Turner	Mary & John Laver
Marlene Jones	Cindy & Eric Hedlund
Dr. Donald & Marion Eno	Margaret McDaniels
Elite Investment Club	
Sandra Lee & Cassie Lombardozzi	

**ENGESSER, HELEN** - FROM:

Harriet DiAndrea

**HOLTZ, SHIRLEY** - FROM:

Cathie & Tim Dugan

**JOHNSON, ALAN** - FROM:

Carol & Mark Zamperini	Joanne Dahlstrand
Carol & Tom Johnson	

### HONORARIUM:

**PETERSON, ROBERT (101<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY)** - FROM:

Lois & Les Fobes

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

## November Council Minutes



1. The minutes of the October 2018 council meeting and Treasurer's report were unanimously approved.
2. **Renovation of 5<sup>th</sup> floor** - Presentation was made regarding renovating the 5<sup>th</sup> floor as a multi-purpose room and for the ReCharge contemporary service. The logistics of setting up and tearing down each month for the ReCharge service was explained and services now average between 30-55 people. This room will also be used for movies, music classes, Sunday school, and be very interactive. Rick Kern showed a plan to open the room up by removing walls and reinforcing the ceiling. A motion was made to proceed with this project and passed unanimously.
3. **Communication with Berman Bedding and Parking Plan** - Rick Kern has added handicap spaces and removed the shrubs that were on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Pastor has asked Berman Bedding to put together a formal agreement for use of the parking lot during the weekend. This parking is already used by church members, but a formal agreement would be helpful.
4. **Nominating Committee** - The process of filling open council seats will begin.
5. **Hotel Purchase Committee** - Pastor has sent a note to the hotel owner to let him know we want to continue as good neighbors and are still open to discuss purchasing the property in the future.
6. **Visioning for Luther Memorial Church** - The committee has been formed and will have updates in future months.
7. **Reminders** - Bach Cantata on November 25; Blue Christmas Service on December 12. Upcoming council meetings on December 11, 2018 and January 8, 2019.



## Luther Memorial Academy

### Kids for Kids



Christmas warms the heart and caring for others brings new meaning. Our LMA children show kindness every day and at Christmas they overflow with compassion for others. Our students took their Kids for Kids bags home and returned them filled with coins and bills knowing they are bringing Christmas joy to many families. All money collected is used to provide Christmas for those in need amongst us. Our youth group along with Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski and Pastor Coleman, will purchase and wrap gifts during the Christmas Extravaganza on November 30.

### Christmas Fair



Our annual Christmas Fair will be held **Thursday, December 6 and Friday, December 7**. Our children look forward to buying something special for their family and friends, and our annual Christmas Fair gives them this opportunity. Please send money in an envelope marked "Christmas Fair" with your child. Adults will be on hand to help them in their selections.

Added to fun is the Chinese Auction which our children always look forward to.

*A great big lion's roar* to Mrs. Tracy Heutsche for chairing such a fun and exciting event for our children.

### Book Fair

Reading is a perfect wintertime activity; cozy in a nice warm blanket with a good book. All classes will shop at the Book Fair on **Friday, December 14**. Families are also invited to shop before and after the Christmas Concert on Monday, December 17 and maybe pick up a present for under the tree.



*Thank you* to Mrs. Latece Jones (Jeremiah, grade 7) for chairing this event.

### Christmas Concert

**Monday, December 17**

7:00pm

Main Church

Enjoy a very merry program –  
"North Pole Diaries"

Directed by Dawn Weborg.  
Art produced by Amy Gilewicz  
and LMA students.



### Christmas Vacation

**Friday, December 21**

11:30am – Dismissal

**NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

School will resume on  
Thursday, January 3, 2019.

### Picture Retakes



Would you like a do-over?  
Picture retakes will be done on  
**Tuesday, December 4**

### Martin Luther King, Jr.



In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
LMA will be closed:  
**Monday, January 21**

## Remembering

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We would like to remember and honor those that have close ties to our LMA family. Jan Birkner, our school librarian, will carefully select books to recognize these friends.

### In Memory of:

**Bill Schaal** – Husband of Carol Schaal  
(a long-time supporter of LMA)

**Rodney Smith** – Father of Hunter Smith, class of 2018

**Jaime Robles** – Great-grandfather of Aiden Montero,  
class of 2017  
Grandfather of Natalie Montero



**Robert Young** – Grandfather of Timothy,  
Christopher & Ashley Young

**Tony Shchouchkoff** – Grandfather of Zach,  
Tyler & Ben Shchouchkoff

**Reed/Smith family** – Donation of outdoor bike  
rack.

### In Honor of:

**Pastor Coleman** – His 10 years of ministry to Luther Memorial Church & LMA

## Thank You

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Thank you to **RENEE STEFF** for the wonderful surprise of current and classic books in excellent condition that she has generously donated to our school library. The books are a perfect addition and many of the teachers are also thrilled with the content of these books.



## Great Stocking Stuffers

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Pick up a sweet treat in the school  
office and put a smile on their face!

**Pulakos Candy Bars** – only \$1



## Taco Lunch

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Be sure to get yours:  
**Walking Taco Lunch**  
**Friday, January 25**  
Cost: \$3.00



Proceeds benefit LEGO LEAGUE

## Merry Christmas . . .



"It's a delicate balance between being good enough  
that you still get your presents, but not so good  
that you can't bug your sister."

## DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 10:00am Legos 
<b>2</b> Advent 1 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth 11:45am St. Lucia Rehearsal Holiday Coffee Hour & Hanging of the Greens following each service 4:00pm ReCharge	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> LMA Picture Re – takes 7:00pm W/ELCA 	<b>5</b> 6:45pm PIAA General Meeting	<b>6</b> LMA Christmas Fair 5:30pm Impact Group 5:30pm Legos 6:00pm PTL 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	<b>7</b> LMA Christmas Fair 5:30pm Legos 6:30pm Club 50	<b>8</b> Lego Championship at Behrend 6:00pm Conf. Class/St. John
<b>9</b> Advent 2 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth 11:30am Blood Pressures 11:45am St. Lucia Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 7:00pm Council	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Blue Christmas Service 	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	<b>14</b> 8:30am LMA Program Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 9:00am Assembly of Cheer Baskets
<b>16</b> Advent 3 8:15/10:30am Worship 10:30am Christmas Pageant 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth Cheer Basket delivery Care Ministry Christmas Party	<b>17</b> 8:30am LMA Program Rehearsal 4:30pm After-School Program closes 7:00pm LMA Christmas Program & Book Fair	<b>18</b> 11:00am Monastery of the Heart	<b>19</b> 11:30am OWLS Christmas Luncheon 12:00pm School Board 	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	<b>21</b> 11:30am LMA Dismissal	<b>22</b> 1:00pm Piano Recital & Reception
<b>23</b> Advent 4 8:15/10:30am Worship	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> Church & School Offices closed 5:30pm Piano & Organ Music 6:00pm Christmas Worship Service 10:00pm Piano & Organ Music 10:30pm Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas</i> Church & School Offices closed 	<b>26</b> Church & School Offices closed	<b>27</b> LMA closed	<b>28</b> LMA closed	<b>29</b> 2:00pm Swenson Wedding
<b>30</b> 8:15/10:30am Worship 	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> Church & School Offices closed					



## JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Happy New Year</i> Church & School Offices closed	2 LMA closed	3 Students return to school 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	4	5 
6 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth 4:00pm ReCharge	7 	8 7:00pm Council	9 5:30pm Super Wednesday 7:00pm Worship & Music	10 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	11	12 6:00pm Conf. Class/St. John
13 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth 11:30am Reception	14	15	16 6:00pm Pastor's Book Club	17 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	18 	19
20 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth 11:30am Budget Meeting 11:30am "Souper" Bowl Tasting 12:30am Congregation Life 1:00pm VASA	21 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> Church & School Offices Closed	22	23	24 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	25	26
27 9:15am Adult Spiritual Growth 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Meeting / Chili & Salad Luncheon / Bake Sale	28	29 	30	31 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir		