

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 47, Issue 1

February 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

SEPTEMBER – MAY

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

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

MUSIC MINISTRY Page 5

MONTHLY EVENTS

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

STAFF

Pastor ~ William E. Coleman
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I am not a huge Facebook user, but enough to post information to our Luther Memorial group page (find our group and check it out) and to stay in touch with friends and family who live far away. Some of the things I enjoy seeing on Facebook are the funny, positive and affirming statements. One funny post (directed most likely to a beloved teenager) was: *"Changing the toilet paper roll does not cause brain damage."* I am sure teenage parents know what I am talking about. My family has this exact statement on a sign found in one of our bathrooms!

But the positive statement I saw at the beginning of the year said: *"2020 Goals – 1. Love God more. 2. Trust God more. 3. Pray to God more."* Yep, that's what I needed to hear and here is why. I think when anyone of us begins a task or a job there is a period of excitement and energy that carries you through so much stuff, that you begin to think: *"I got this handled...piece of cake."* But then, as wisdom develops over the years, you start to humbly realize how you have been held up and supported by God and others through those many years. Some of you may think that I have this pastor thing all figured out, and some parts I do, but so much of being a leader in a faith community is unclear, uncertain and hard. And once I admitted that to myself, I am able to share this with you...not as a sign of weakness, but a humble admission of where the strength and blessings come from...and then, one gets it...I need help. **I need to love God more. I need to trust God more. I need to pray to God more.** There is no creative or easy way to grow a ministry together that does not encourage and have the spiritual disciplines of weekly worship, daily prayer, sacrificial giving and faithful service as the foundational part of it.

Our church is overflowing with opportunities to assist us in our personal spiritual disciplines, and so I extend a word of thanks for your generous offerings last year, and extend a loving hand of invitation to fully dwell in Christ's church. Peace, joy, hope and love.

New Member Classes



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 16, 2020
May 3, 2020
August 30, 2020
November 22, 2020

New Members Received

10:30am Worship ~ Sanctuary

March 1, 2020
May 17, 2020
September 13, 2020
December 6, 2020

Grief Group



In participation with the Erie Lutheran Parish, Pastor Bill Coleman and Pastor Kristen Papson of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church will be leading a six session grief group at Luther Memorial Church beginning on Tuesday, February 4 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. If you have questions about this group please contact Pastor Coleman. Also, if you have decided to attend, please let Pastor Coleman know so he can prepare for the right number of people. Thank you.

Stewardship and Leaving a Legacy



- The Stewardship Committee would like to offer the use of **electronic giving** to Luther Memorial's ministry if you are unable to worship on Sunday morning. Please note that you are able to give online by going to the church's webpage at www.luthermemorialonline.org. Feel free to contact our Parish Manager, Miriam Scheid, with any questions.
- Also, if you are considering leaving a legacy to Luther Memorial Church or Luther Memorial Academy you can do this through two ways: First, by contacting Ryan Ebner who is a Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation at 814-823-3285 / ryan.ebner@elca.org; or second, through the Erie Community Foundation.



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

John Hubbard (brother, Brian Hubbard) who died November 27, 2019.
Christine Sedgwick (brother, Dave Parsh) who died Monday, December 2.
Avis Hubbard (brother, Brian Hubbard) who died December 21, 2019.
Anna Mae Lee (daughter, Patricia Boyd) who died January 12, 2020.
Peg Beute (sister, Pam Masiroff) who died January 15, 2020.
Joe Silvis (Bonnie Silvis' father-in-law) who died January 23, 2020.

Luther Memorial ReCharge



February 9, 2020

4:00-5:00pm Food and Fellowship
5:00-6:00pm Worship

We invite you to join us for our **ReCharge service on Sunday, February 9, 2020**. We will gather in the parlor at 4:00pm for a delicious dinner, fellowship and activities. The main dish is provided; you are welcome to bring a

dish to share. Our worship service will be held at 5:00pm. We hope to see you for worship as we lift our voices in praise to our Lord for all that he has done.

Good Gifts

Our OWLS and Magic Fingers Grace Group celebrated at a Christmas gathering together on December 18. Everyone enjoyed a delicious luncheon complete with carols and games. In lieu of a gift exchange a collection was taken and given to the Good Gifts Project through the ELCA. A total of \$220 was donated which will purchase the following:



One Goat
Honeybees
One flock of chicks

Three clinic visits for a child
Five quantities of stocking a backpack with food
Two water filters

These items will help many that are in need, and we thank all those that donated to this wonderful Christmas gift.

The Good Gifts Project through the ELCA is a wonderful way to help many people. The **Deborah Circle** also accepted donations and donated funds to purchase one goat and one clinic visit for a child.



Good friends are sure to keep in touch throughout the year and these ladies also donated to the Good Gifts Project donating one piglet.

Luther Memorial Church Website Update



While encouraging consistent worship attendance in this faith community, because of the Incarnational ministry we share, we also realize there are many people who are not able to gather each Sunday in this ministry. So after a time of trial, we have decided to post a portion of our worship service each and every Sunday to our church website. Once on the webpage, go to the "Resources" tab and then proceed to the drop down tab "Sunday Morning Worship." The readings are listed along with the audio file. We hope this connection with you in this way will draw you into this community, meeting face to face, to work together by making your offering of your time, talents and treasures.

Also, a hard copy of Luther Memorial's Annual Report can be found on our hospitality tables and a copy is posted to our church website at www.luthermemorialonline.org in the "News Section". Please take the time to review the report and be grateful for the wonderful ministry happening in this place. We continue to actively use the church website to post ministry newsletters and a daily calendar.



Ash Wednesday February 26

Ash Wednesday services with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be held in the main church at 12:05 and 7:00pm. Noon and evening meals will not be served on Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Wednesdays

Each Wednesday in Lent, March 1 – April 1, Luther Memorial Church will gather for food, fellowship, study and worship to deepen the bonds of our faith community. As in previous years worship will be held at 12:05pm in the main church followed by a meal and Lenten study. An evening session will also be held beginning with a meal held in fellowship hall followed by our Lenten study and activities for our children. More details will be provided in our March newsletter.



“Souper” Bowl of Caring



“Souper” Bowl of Caring is a national project sponsored by churches to help alleviate hunger in the community. Soup kettles will be at the entrances of the church on **Sunday, February 2** if you would like to make a donation. All donations received are kept in our local community.

“Share the Love”



Please join us for a special coffee hour in the parlor, sponsored by our Congregational Life Committee, following each service on **Sunday, February 2**. “Share the Love” as we enjoy fellowship with friends and some special treats.

“Souper” Bowl

Sunday, February 9
11:30am
Fellowship Hall



Warm up & share some great recipes at our Annual “Souper” Bowl Tasting Event. It’s a tasty winter-time tradition at Luther Memorial. Join us to sample or cook up your favorite and bring it along for everyone to share. Remember your recipe to share.

Soup & Salad Luncheon

Sunday, February 16
11:30am
Fellowship Hall

Soup made with love for Valentine’s Day; and it’s delicious! Join us for fellowship and a wonderful luncheon.

All youth are asked to attend and lend a helping hand with set-up and clean-up.



Stay healthy - blood pressure screenings will also be offered by our parish nurses.



Spring Tureen



It may seem early to talk about it, but we know it’s on everyone’s mind – SPRING! So let’s start planning for the warmth and get the Spring Tureen on our calendars.

Join us in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, March 1** for a delicious luncheon and enjoy the company of great friends. The main dish and beverages will be provided; you are welcome to bring a dish to share.



Usborne Cards

Handcrafted cards for all occasions with coordinating envelopes in a keepsake box are available for purchase from our youth. Five different boxes are offered:

Cards for All Occasions (Box 1)
Thanks & Blanks Box

Cards for All Occasions (Box 2)
Kids Birthday Box

Holiday Cards



Boxes contain 30 cards; the holiday box contains 50 cards. At only \$30 per box, these unique cards are sure to meet your needs throughout the year. Each set comes in a beautiful organizer box for future use.

Save money now and time later. Order forms are located in the church office.

Music Ministry

Bach Cantata Vespers



The Luther Memorial Bach Cantata Vespers series invites you to sing with us at the next **Luther Memorial Bach Cantata Vespers** which will be presented on **Sunday, March 8 at 4:00pm** and will feature the comforting and confident cantata #93 based on one of our solid, but less-often sung hymns - "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" (LBW 453).

Five full Sunday choir rehearsals begin on **February 2 and will continue through March 1 (12:00 noon to 1:15 PM)** - please plan to attend as many of those as you can. The final rehearsal with orchestra will be on Saturday, March 7 from 9:00am to 11:30am. Also, beginning Thursday, February 6, the final 30 minutes (8:00 - 8:30pm) of our regular evening choir rehearsals will be devoted to this music - you are welcome to join us at that time for additional preparation.

If you are interested in singing in the choir for a time of music-making and fellowship including light snacks following each Sunday rehearsal, please contact Walt Gaber (814.602.2755, WaltGaber@gmail.com) prior to the first rehearsal you attend.

Sunday Inserts in Sunday Bulletin



Luther Memorial Church has been using new forms to keep track of worship attendance, address or phone changes, email addresses, guest information, prayer needs, sermon reflection and ways to sign up for upcoming ministry events. **You are encouraged to use them each Sunday to improve communication among one another and the church staff, and allow people to get involved more quickly.** After completing a Sunday Insert form, please place it in the offering plate.

February Birthday Celebrations

Amy Coleman	2/1	Lucy Fromyer	2/11	Jonathan Ulrich	2/20
Jessica Copfer	2/1	Rosemari Sold	2/12	Coleen DiCenzo	2/21
Rick Kern	2/1	Alexander Spaulding	2/12	Lila Heckelman	2/21
Cheryl Hessinger	2/2	Paul Young	2/12	Robert Weisman	2/21
Linda Allen	2/3	Christopher Allen	2/13	Cheryl Andrae	2/22
Linda Burling	2/3	David Ditz	2/13	Sheryl Kern	2/22
Montie Collier	2/3	Betty Pletz	2/13	Cathie Dugan	2/23
Lois Smith	2/3	Laura Symes	2/14	Emma Downey	2/24
Vickie Diehl	2/4	Carl Anderson, III	2/16	Pamela Arnold	2/25
James Koenig	2/5	Jasper Eagle	2/16	Nancy Benacci	2/25
Cameron Casey	2/6	Beth Keller	2/16	Keith Perry	2/25
Elliott Schumacher	2/6	Jordyn Williams	2/16	Grace Spaulding	2/25
Ashley Young	2/6	Lydia Cowan	2/17	John Bartlett	2/27
Cathy Meyn	2/7	Melissa Fromyer	2/17	Amelia Lang	2/27
Mike Snider	2/7	Carolyn Carlson	2/18	James Benson	2/28
Jackie Lupo	2/8	Shirley Collier	2/18	Robert Carlson	2/28
Adam Nicotra	2/8	Lena Donnelly	2/18	Christine Fracassi	2/28
Charles Lintelman	2/10	Jane Kinzig	2/20		
John Vali	2/10	Rhonda Kuhrman	2/20		

Christian Education

Confirmation



Class Time: Saturday nights from 6:00-8:30pm
Class Location: Luther Memorial Church

We continue to partner 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 7th, 8th and 9th graders.

Schedule of Confirmation Classes

2/8/2020	Class, Food, Fun, and Fellowship
3/14/2020	Class, Food, Fun, and Fellowship
4/11/2020	No Class – Easter Vigil
5/9/2020	Class, Food, Fun, and Fellowship

Adult Spiritual Growth

Pastor Coleman encourages those who have not been attending the Adult Spiritual Growth classes from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the downstairs Fellowship hall to please do so. The classes are informative and the discussion with one another enlightening and helpful. Please consider this time as a part of your Sabbath and a time to spend in the presence of the Lord.



Sunday

Topic

2/2/2020	Discussion on Aging - Aging from the Perspective of the Cross
2/9/2020	Discussion on Aging - When Suffering Continues
2/16/2020	Discussion on Aging - What's Retirement For?
2/23/2020	Discussion on Aging - Declining with Grace

Super Wednesday

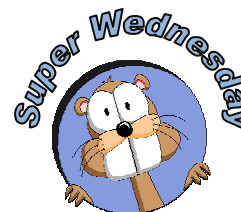


It's a New Year and we hope you have Super Wednesday on your calendars. Join us on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 5:30pm for a great meal, followed by faith conversations and prayer. Kids will have time together with Sarah Prylinski and Beth Keller. This is a relaxed and multi-generational event and 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! Add our Super Wednesday dates to your calendars:

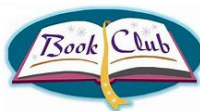
(Season of Lent: March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25 and April 1, 2020)

The schedule includes the following:

5:30 to 6:15pm	Meal
6:15 to 7:15pm	Devotional Time
7:15 to 8:15pm	Committee Meetings



Pastor's Book Club



All are welcome to join us for our next discussion on **Wednesday, February 19 at 6:00pm**. We will complete the book *"Losing Moses on the Freeway: The Ten Commandments in America"* by Chris Hedges.

To plan ahead, the next book for reading will be *"The Way of Gratitude: Reading for a Joyful Life"* by various authors. We are told that our lives will benefit from the daily practice of giving gratitude for all that we have. That is precisely what *"The Way of Gratitude: Readings for a Joyful Life"*, featuring the writings of various acclaimed authors, seeks to accomplish and promote. A hundred famous writers share their experiences, essays, fiction, poems, meditations, and inspired ideas on the joy of being thankful. These honest and heartfelt writings will add gladness to your days. Contributors include Wendell Berry, David Brooks, Joan Chittister, James Martin, Thich Nhat Hanh, Henri Nouwen, Mary Oliver, Richard Rohr, Joyce Rupp, David Steindl-Rast, Rowan Williams, and many others whose spiritual perceptions already bring joy and faith to millions. This collection is an opportunity to strengthen your connection to God through heightened awareness of the gifts in our own lives.

Women of the ELCA

W/ELCA

Deborah Circle

TUESDAY EVENING CIRCLE:
Our next gathering will be held:
Tuesday, February 4 at 4:00pm



Tuesday, February 4
1:00pm

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.

Magic Fingers Grace Group



It's coming up on Valentine's Day so we'll add a little extra love to our knitting and crocheting. We invite you to pop in to one of our Magic Fingers Grace Group gatherings, bring your yarn project, and sit down with some friends for a wonderful morning. 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 at 10:00am; February 11 and February 25.

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

OWLS ~ Older, Wiser Lutherans

Valentine Surprise



A Valentine's Day gathering complete with friends, lunch and entertainment is a wonderful way to celebrate. We're looking forward to a wonderful afternoon and thank Jan MacInnes for making arrangements. This event has become so popular that reservations are full.

Date: Friday, February 14
Time: 12:00 - 2:00pm
Place: Bayfront Convention Center, Grand Ballroom
1 Sassafras Pier
Cost: No charge

Monastery of the Heart



Hearts to you on Valentine's Day.....and an invitation to open your heart through fellowship, reading and spiritual growth!!

What: Monastery of the Heart Book Club
When: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 from 11:00am - 1:00pm
Where: Luther Memorial Church Parlor



We will begin reading, *Dear Joan Chittister: Conversations with Women in the Church*. Copies will be available to borrow or purchase.

All are welcome! Let us know you are coming by calling Norma in the church office at 454-0106. Monastery of the Heart gathers in the parlor on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00am.

A True Story



Sometimes it takes hearing or reading a true story to make us realize the importance of receiving medical care in a timely manner.

My “oldest” friend, and by oldest I don’t mean she’s older than me, but because our mothers and sisters were friends we have been friends since infancy. Recently she experienced symptoms of a stroke!

She woke up one morning and went about her usual routine of fixing coffee and getting the newspaper. Her husband was elsewhere in the house so she hadn’t talked yet. She sat down to have her coffee and read the paper without difficulty. Her husband came around and she went to the kitchen and realized she was having some problems. She knew it was the microwave but couldn’t figure out how to operate it. She knew it was a wall socket, but also couldn’t figure out what to do with it. She tried to tell her husband, but couldn’t. Her words were all jumbled. She did convey, somehow, that she needed to go to the hospital, so they proceeded to get ready. She was having difficulty getting dressed and told her husband to call the ambulance NOW. They came and she was feeling better and able to talk. The EMT’s reassured her that it was important that she still go, and she actually walked to the ambulance.

At the ER the staff was very attentive to what happened to her and since she was feeling better they wouldn’t administer the “clot buster” which is tissue plasminogen activator-TPA that dissolves clots. They would continue to observe her. Her blood pressure was elevated but not dangerously high. She did get up once to use the restroom without difficulty. But the second time she told them she didn’t feel well and her speech became more altered and she lost function in her right arm. This then became an emergent situation and they administered the “clot buster”. Within an hour she regained her speech, cognitive function and use of her arm!

She was admitted to ICU for 24 hour observation. The physicians were investigating why this happened. She does have a history of elevated blood pressure that is kept under control with medication. She has no history of atrial fibrillation which is a known cause of stroke. The next day she had several tests including an echocardiogram, a transesophageal echocardiogram, a CT scan and a venogram of her legs looking for clots. They did find a PFO- patent foramen ovale, which is a small hole in the wall of the heart between the right and left ventricles. We are born with this and it closes at birth, however, hers did not, but she never knew that she had this. This can be a risk factor but the doctors aren’t 100% sure that this was the cause.

I visited her that afternoon and she was doing and looking fine. I was relieved! She is still having a very slight problem with her speech but was reassured that this takes time. She was told she might go home the next day, but then a new hospitalist saw her and told her he wanted her to stay one more day because what she went through “was a very serious event”! Several of the nurses also commented that she was one of the “lucky ones” who didn’t have any residual effects.

So now what? She is on a full strength aspirin every day, a cholesterol lowering medicine, no ibuprofen (can cause bleeding), monitoring her blood pressure twice a day and is scheduled for a Holter heart monitor for 30 days to determine if she does have intermittent atrial fibrillation. And, of course, she is to follow up with the neurologist and her PCP. She will see the cardiologist depending on the results of the monitor results.

Fortunately she knew the acronym, FAST, for stroke and this alerted her to get help. I have read more about this acronym and 2 more letters have been added:

B – balance

E – eyes, a change in vision

F – face, drooping on one side

A – arms, weakness and can they lift both arms?

S – speech difficulty

T – time-time to call 911 and also note what time the symptoms started. This determines if TPA can be administered in the 3 hour window.

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability the US.

February is Heart and Stroke Awareness Month, and I hope this story has helped you understand the importance of getting immediate care when you are not feeling well.

We were all praying and God listened and put my friend in the right place at the right time. And, thank God for modern medicine and treatments!

Blessings,

Linda Graffius, RN

Faith Community Nurse

Thank You's

Dear Luther Memorial Church,

Thank you for the gift of \$125 to ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. You are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed. God is with us and God is working through you. Thank you for spreading light and love to so many in this season of hope.



In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown – Mission Funding Director

Dear Luther Memorial Lutheran Church,



Thank you for your gift of \$2,307.45 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With your Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!

In Christ,

The Rev Robin Brown – Mission Funding Director

This money was given from the St. Matthew's Foundation which is a restricted Endowment. The St. Matthew's Foundation committee prayerfully discerns where money is given.

Dear Pastor Coleman,

Please accept the sincere thanks from the Bethesda Foundation for Children Board of Directors and Bethesda Lutheran Services staff for your generous donation of \$300 in support of Bethesda's Programming. Your gift and support are both greatly appreciated.

Best always,

George Trauner – Chief Executive Officer



This money was given from the proceeds of the Kenneth Snider Car Cruise held at Luther Memorial Church on Sunday, July 21, 2019.


Dear Luther Memorial Church,

We want you to know that we are especially thankful for your generous support of ServErie in the amount of \$300 allowing us to continue to restore communities by connecting people in need to resources! Your donation fuels the incredible work in and around our footprint. You truly have made a difference in the lives of our neighbors and the future of Erie. Thank you!



Marcus S. Atkinson – Executive Director

This money was given from the proceeds of the Kenneth Snider Car Cruise held at Luther Memorial Church on Sunday, July 21, 2019.

 My mother, Laura Dascanio would like to thank her Parish for the kindness given to her and for the beautiful flowers delivered to her new home. She is doing well and hoping that given time she becomes comfortable in her new surroundings. Going through Mom's things we found her confirmation picture from Luther Memorial.

Thank you,

Patty McMahon

Dear Prayer Shawl Committee Members,

You may feel that you make the shawls, present them and that's it. Not true: The shawl given to me before my hip replacement surgery is beautiful and sincerely appreciated. Also: the small pocket cross which is hand held and blessed was with me before and after surgery. Your handiwork of love has contributed to my recovery.

Thank you,

Sandra Brindle



Sandra also sends words of thanks to Linda Graffius for the many thoughtful and kind ways she answered her questions and provided sound advice. Sandra also wrote to Linda: "I've said this before, LMC is fortunate to have you as our Nurse and Care Minister Advisor. I feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family"

Thank You, cont'd.:

God bless you! Thank you for your cards and prayers for our mother! She is 101 plus two months. Unbelievable.

Much love,

Velma Gunselman's Family.



Thank you to Pastor Coleman for taking the funeral service reigns when I could not. To the choir for their beautiful music and floral arrangement to help ease the pain. To the women's group for feeding us the tastiest meal after the service. But most importantly thank you for being there in a dark time in our family. I am grateful for everyone's help and kindness.



God bless, Jennifer Fuller and Josh Stelmack (*The children of Christine Sedgwick who died on December 2, 2019*)



God bless you and thank you to all the "cookie bakers and bringers" and volunteers who helped make our 23rd Annual Bethesda Center Family Christmas Dinner successful on Wednesday, December 18.

We thank Thrivent Financial for supplying Luther Memorial with their Thrivent Action Team Dollars Program funds to cover the majority of the expenses. This was the 23rd year that St. Matthew's/Luther Memorial has done this Christmas dinner and God blessed us yet again with another successful one! There was great attendance and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Thank-you again, everyone!

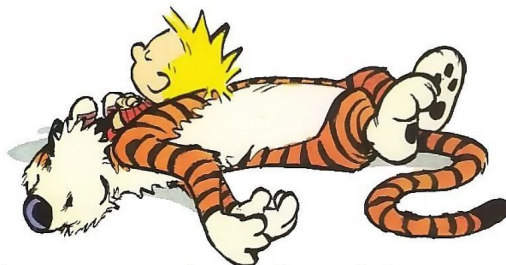
Roberta Lobaugh



Tracy Townsend of UPMC Hamot wrote a lovely thank you note to Jan MacInnes and the Prayer Shawl ladies for the pocket crosses they have made and Jan delivers to the hospital. Tracy said that the people who receive the crosses are so touched by the wonderful gift, and the power behind the little pocket cross is amazing! God is good and we are sharing God's love!

Pastor Coleman would like to thank all the volunteers from Luther Memorial Church who served such a wonderful Christmas meal to the families of Bethesda Trinity Center! It was a great evening of service and fellowship.... so thank you!

Friends pick us up when we fall down, and if
they can't pick us up,



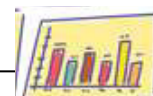
they lie down and listen for awhile



December Council Minutes

1. *Minutes* of the November 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. *Treasurer's Report* – Treasurer Greg Kern reviewed the details of his written report, indicating that church finances are in acceptable condition. On motion the report was unanimously accepted.
3. *Communications* – Thank you notes were received from:
 - a. Sandra Brindle for support during her recent surgery;
 - b. Member Outreach Ministry notes;
 - c. Tracy Townsend of UPMC Hamot for prayer crosses.
4. *Memorial* – Consultation with Pastor Walter's sister concluded that a gift be made to LMA in an amount to be determined after discussion with LMA Administrator Christopher Paul.
5. *Visioning for Luther Memorial* – A list of tasks and council members committing to these are in Pastor Coleman's report.
6. *St. Matthew's Organ Proposal* – The sale of the building is pending, therefore the organ needs to be moved soon.
7. *Staff Relations Committee* – Committee members have met with each staff member at least once. Job descriptions will be completed by December 31. The committee explained to all staff that they have no involvement in staff job security or in compensation.
8. *Preparedness and Response Committee* – Quotes were taken from ADT and Wilkins Company. An important addition would be cameras covering the parking lot (one aimed toward 11th Street; one toward 10th Street). This should be considered sometime next year.
9. *Property Committee* – Chairman Rick Kern provided three (3) proposals for a railing on the new entrance from the parking lot on the east side of the building. An estimate will be provided at the next meeting.
10. *Upcoming Meetings* – Regular Council meeting, including annual budget, is Tuesday, January 14; budget approval meeting is Sunday, January 19 and the Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2020 following the 10:30 worship service.

December 2019 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>
December 1	38	107	33		178
December 8	46	126		27	199
December 15	36	155 (Pageant)			191
December 22	49	108			157
December 29	31	88			119

SPECIAL SERVICES:

	<u>4:00 P.M.</u>	<u>6:00 P.M.</u>	<u>10:30 P.M.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
December 8 (St. Lucia)	160			160
December 11 (Blue Christmas)		45		45
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	245		93	338

BAPTISMS: None recorded.

SCHAAL, WILLIAM – FROM: Susan & Harold Bender

FUNERALS: None recorded.

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: HOKAJ, TOM – FROM: Jane & Jack Tell

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WALTER, RALPH – FROM:

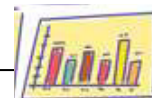
WEDDINGS: None recorded.

Dolores DeMarco Barb & Ross Walter
Helen & Bob Collins Nancy & John Purchase

January Council Minutes

1. *Minutes* of the December 10, 2019 meeting were reviewed and on motion unanimously accepted.
2. *Memorial* – A gift will be given in memory of Pastor Ralph Walter. Ann Flick is working with Chris Paul to secure a quote on a new flag for LMA.
3. *St. Matthew's Organ Sale* - Pastor Coleman reported that the Rodgers organ and speakers have been moved to the buyer's premises (Holy Cross Episcopal in North East). A sales agreement is ready to sign and their check for \$10,000 is ready. When the check is in hand it will be decided whether to put it in the Organ Maintenance Fund, or somewhere else.
4. *Merger* – State documents on the merger of St. Matthew's and Luther Memorial are ready to sign.
5. *Memorial* – The Bender family gave a donation of \$10,000 to be used in memory of Bill Schaal.
6. *Treasurer's Report* – Treasurer Greg Kern reviewed the details of his written report, indicating that church finances are in good order at year-end. Income was down \$10,000 from last year, and expenses were over \$26,000; almost all in property. On motion the report was unanimously accepted.
7. *Budget* – A detailed budget for the upcoming year was presented by Greg Kern. Discussion regarding mileage was held; this will be deferred to next year. Staff increases were discussed and approved on motion and carried unanimously.
8. *Fire Panel Quote* – The Foundation Committee has approved a quote of \$8,150 to replace the existing panel.
9. *Upcoming Meetings* – Council will meet to vote on the budget on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 11:45am in the library.
 - a. Congregational Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2020 following the 10:30am service.
 - b. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00pm.

January 2020 Statistics



ATTENDANCE:

	<u>8:15 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>4:00 P.M. RECHARGE</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January 5	48	124		13	185
January 12	32	130	39	1 (nursery)	202
(Pineapple Sunday)					
January 19	18	89		13	120
January 26		153			153
(Annual Meeting/8:15 not held)					

SPECIAL SERVICES:

	<u>2:00 P.M.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January 5 (Amahl)	360	360

BAPTISMS: None recorded.

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

MEMORIALS:

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

LEE, ANNA MAE – FROM: Marilyn Rositer



Luther Memorial Academy

Student Council



Our Student Council planned some great events to kick off 2020. On January 13 students were encouraged to wear yellow shirts or shirts with ducks on them to promote National Rubber Duck Day. Students wearing “duck” shirts were entered into a drawing for a “Ducky” prize.

Pancakes in Pajamas was our theme for January 28. Students and their families were invited to enjoy a pancake breakfast in fellowship hall. And, for only \$1, students were able to wear pajamas to school that day.

Fun, imaginative and great things keep happening at LMA.

Lego League



The Luther Memorial Academy Lego Robotic Team; The Lego Lions, competed in the Northwestern Pennsylvania Championship Tournament held at Penn State Behrend Junker Center on Saturday, December 7, 2019. The team members, Ian and Michael Gladney, Samuel Gross and Lydia Nelson competed in this year’s Lego League challenge, City Shapers. The team presented a project that they developed for the Erie Experience Children’s Museum complete with climbing areas, slides, a ball pit, interactive floor, and a large area for classrooms, and incorporating STEM and STEAM activities. This area represents two of Erie’s landmarks, the Wayne Blockhouse and the Erie Lighthouse. The project was also presented to the Children’s Museum in hopes that the project or parts of the project will be accepted by the museum’s board to be added to the new Children’s Museum design and renovation project.

The team ran their robot through the three robot games on the City Shapers challenge robot course. The team scored 260 points in their third run which gave them an overall finish of third place. The top two teams were tied with the scores of 275. A very close competition and the Lego Lions represented the school with Lion Pride. Congratulations on a job well done.

Festival of Trees



Luther Memorial Academy students and staff, with the help of Luther Memorial Church, started a new tradition in 2019, The LMA Festival of the Trees. This was the first year for this undertaking and with the generous donation of 6 trees, the students used their art classes to make beautiful decorations and ornaments representing a special theme chosen by the classes for each tree. Thank you to Ms. Gilewicz, the LMA student council, Mrs. Hokaj, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Paul and Mrs. Buerk for helping the students start this wonderful Christmas activity.



National Geographic Geography Bee School Finals

The finals of the school Geography Bee were held on Thursday, January 23, 2020. Ten finalists from Grades 4-8 competed in the finals, which were held in the Chapel. Congratulations to our LMA Geography Bee Champion – 8th Grade student **Nathan Tuznik!** Brayden Fedak, 6th Grade, came in 2nd place. Our 3rd place finisher was Samuel Gross, 5th Grade.

Finalists

4th Grade – Jaida Fried, Class Champion

5th Grade – Samuel Gross, Class Champion

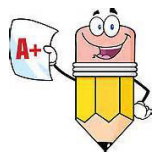
6th Grade – Brayden Fedak and Isaiah Fried, Class Co-Champions

7th Grade – Ian Gladney, Class Champion

8th Grade – Mira Bavaro, Cooper Bebko, Khanh Johnson, and Darhyl Thomas, Co-Champions;
Nathan Tuznik, Finalist



Report Card Day



Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, February 7. Be sure to check those bookbags.

School Break



School will be closed:
Friday, February 14 – Winter Break
Monday, February 17 – President's Day
Have a wonderful four day weekend!

Challenge 24

Thursday, February 20

Students in grades 4-8 will test their math skills competing in Challenge 24.

Thank you to Mrs. Carey for continuing to hold this event and perfect our students' math skills.



Middle School Dance

Come on out for some fun at our winter dance!

Friday, February 21

6:0-8:30pm

No Cost

Thank you to the PTL for generously underwriting the dance expense for students.

Guests must be in middle school.



Bake Sale



Thursday, February 6

Friday, February 7

Pick up some sweets at the bake sale and satisfy your craving. Grade 7 will be sponsoring this delicious sale to benefit LMA field trips.

Grilled Cheese & Soup

Goosey melted cheese & soup for lunch

Friday, February 21

\$2 for soup & sandwich or

\$1 for a choice of 1

Proceeds benefit our Technology Lab

Read Across America Day



Friday, February 28

The excitement grows as this special day draws closer. The celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day has become a highly anticipated day for our students. A day filled with fun, laughter and special events is sure to bring a smile to everyone.

Speakers from our community will be visiting and sharing the importance of reading. **A big hats off to our LMA teachers for organizing a very special day.**

Be sure to pick out some favorite books; as part of the celebration a reading contest for all LMA students will run from February 3 to February 28.



**"You're never
too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and
read to a child."
-Dr. Seuss**

Remembrance

We would like to remember and honor those that have close ties to our LMA family. Jan Birkner carefully selected books to recognize these friends of Luther Memorial Academy.

In Memory of:

Martin Brooks – Grandfather of Samantha Kopkowski
“Max & the Midnights”

Thomas Page – Grandfather of Gabby Page
“The Spacedog Cometh”

Clarence Briggs – Father of Kim Wertz
“Fast & Furriest”



Rev. Ralph Walter – Former Associate Pastor of
Luther Memorial Church
“Quest for the Golden Fleas”

Erin McCarty – Graduate of LMA
“Theater Shoes”

Easter Candy



An appearance from the Easter Bunny is a few weeks away, but preparations begin today. This is our second PTL fundraiser of the year and the yummiest!!

LMA-PT L is sponsoring a Romolos Easter Chocolate/Candy sale! We retain 40% of all sales so any support is appreciated as we hope to reach our PTL budget goal! Order forms can be found in the school and church offices, as well as on the table under the video screen in the church parlor hallway. Order forms have also been sent home with all students.

All order forms and money are due back to the school no later than THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13. Delivery of candy is scheduled for Monday, March 30. As always, thank you for your support. Please contact Sandy Mantsch at msred411@msn.com or call/text 814-218-9315 with any questions.

Valerio's Coupons



Get your Valerio's coupons and support our LMA Sports Programs. Quick easy dinners for the rushed holiday season ahead. And these will make great gifts and stocking stuffers. Running behind for your holiday party preparation; just pull out your coupon and let Valerio's plan it.

- Coupons can be picked up in the school office Monday-Friday; 8:00am – 3:30pm.
- Coupons are valid through October 31, **2020!**

Coupon orders may be sent to the school office and Mrs. Fried will send the coupons home with your child that day. Please detach the order slip below and put in a sealed envelope marked 'VALERIO'S' with full payment.

VALERIO'S COUPON ORDER

Student Name _____ Grade _____

of sub coupons _____ x \$6.00 = \$ _____

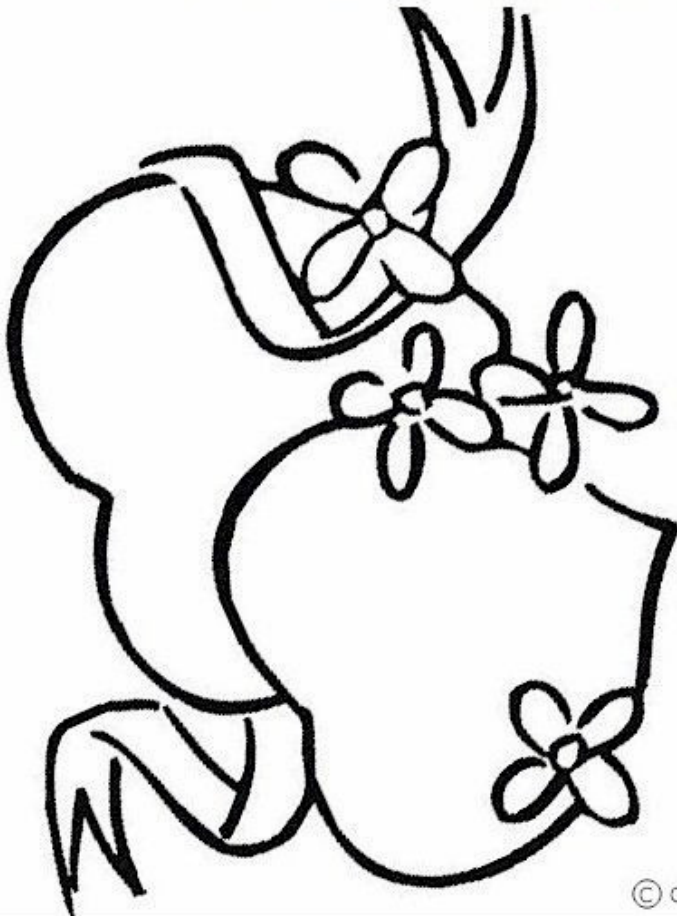
of pizza coupons _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

\$10 for 1 large 1 topping pizza \$6 for a 12 inch regular sub

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:30am Committal Service 4:00-10:00pm Family Party
2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth "Share the Love" Coffee Hour following each service 12:00pm Bach Rehearsal	3 	4 4:00pm W/ELCA 6:00pm Grief Group	5 5:30pm Super Wednesday 6:45pm PIAA General Meeting 7:00pm Worship & Music	6 3:00pm Organ Lesson 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	7	8 1:00-5:00pm Shower/Parlor 6:00pm Conf. Class
9 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth 11:30am "Souper" Bowl 12:30pm Cong. Life Meeting 12:00pm Bach Rehearsal 4:00pm ReCharge	10	11 100 th day of school 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:30pm Teen Group 7:00pm Council	12	13 3:00pm Organ Lesson 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> LMA Closed 12:00pm OWLS/Convention Center 6:30pm Club 50 	15
16 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth 11:30am Soup & Salad 12:00pm Bach Rehearsal 12:30pm Youth Movie & Activity	17 LMA Closed 	18 11:00am Monastery of the Heart 6:30pm Faith Community Advisory Bd.	19 6:00pm Pastor's Book Club	20 8:30am Challenge 24/LMA 3:00pm Organ Lesson 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	21 6:00-8:30pm LMA Winter Dance	22
23 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Sp. Growth 11:30am Health Ministry Meeting 12:00pm Bach Rehearsal	24	25 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 12:00pm Worship 7:00pm Worship 	27 3:00pm Organ Lesson 3:00pm School Bd. 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	28 Read Across America Day 	29

Valentine's Day



- FLOWERS
- HEARTS
- KISS
- LOVE
- VALENTINE
- ARROW
- CANDY
- CARD
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPID

WORD SEARCH

C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	G	U
E	S	Y	V	Y	P	M	B	I	I	U
M	N	R	D	W	G	D	U	C	G	D
D	Q	I	E	N	G	W	O	C	E	B
F	O	I	T	W	A	L	O	V	E	B
W	I	M	P	N	O	C	E	W	D	H
C	G	T	R	L	E	L	U	M	I	P
H	E	A	R	T	S	L	F	O	P	E
X	K	I	S	S	F	N	A	P	U	G
E	M	W	O	R	R	A	S	V	C	C
D	R	A	C	M	E	Q	U	I	V	W