

LUTHER MEMORIAL

C H U R C H



Luther Memorial Church • 225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106
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Luther Memorial Academy • 220 West Eleventh Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 454-0106

Volume 52, Issue 7

September 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 am Worship Faith Chapel
10:30 am Worship Main Church
10:30am service live streamed on YouTube.
Service available on LM website on Monday

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Dear Luther Memorial,

...and with that, summer comes to an end. Well, not astronomically, but certainly socially we are squarely back into program years, academic years, sports calendars, and our vacations seem like a too short and too long time ago. So, too, we enter into the program year here at Luther.

It's an interesting thing, these calendars we keep as a congregation. Here at Luther, with all of humanity, we keep the calendar year and are swiftly approaching the final quarter of that. So too, at Luther, with all of the Church, we keep the Church Year from Advent to Christ the King. That will end a little sooner just around Thanksgiving. We also keep a program year which is roughly September to May wherein we have a heavier schedule of programs. This month Brown Bag Bible will begin with our first gathering on September 4 at 12:00 noon. And please join us in the parlor on September 14 at 9:15am as we begin Second Sunday Soirées.

We will also open our highly anticipated program year for our Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series. I hope you mark your calendars (and get your free tickets) for our viewing of *Matthew Shepard Is a Friend of Mine* on Saturday, September 20. We will welcome the producer of the film as well as Matthew Shepard's parents, Judy and Dennis, for this momentous start to our series.

Perhaps even more highly anticipated, though, is something relatively unique to our parish here at Luther Memorial...the beginning of our Academic Year! Now, in all honesty, we start the academic year just before Labor Day in August, but we are starting in full this month. We celebrate our 50th Academic Year this year! I hope you will mark our Block Party (September 13), LMA Sunday (September 28 @ 10:30am), and so many more opportunities to celebrate this year. Also be sure to stop by the school hallways to see some of our remodels and the freshly installed class pictures from all of our 41 graduating classes of whom we are so proud!

However you are looking to keep time around now, I hope you remember to keep Christ always at your center. For we remember, celebrate, and cling to the promise that Christ alone is the same yesterday, today, and forever and to him belongs all time and dominion. And for that, Thanks be to God!

I look forward to seeing you at as many of our programs as you can make!

See you in church!

Worship Matters!



ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY

So, the season after Pentecost, Ordinary Time—so named because we used *ordinal* numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc)—the season of the Church, whatever you call the “Green Season,” it’s the longest single season of the Church Year. Not only is it long, but it comes in three handy dandy segments throughout the year.

Technically speaking, Ordinary Time begins on the first Sunday after the feast of the Epiphany. We don’t usually recognize this as the beginning of the green season because we **always** celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on this Sunday, which is a festival when we use white as our color. This is often the first or second Sunday in January, though it could be as late as the 13th of January. We then proceed through the feast of the Transfiguration (also a white Sunday, though a part of the green season) which is on the Sunday immediately before Ash Wednesday. This first part of Ordinary Time lasts anywhere from four to eight weeks all dependent upon when Easter falls (and that liturgical math is something for a different article). During this season we share stories of Jesus’ ministry, the first miracles he performs, the calling of the disciples, the creating of a community.

Then, after the Day of Pentecost (the 8th Sunday after Easter), we pick back up with Ordinary Time. You may have noticed this year that the 22nd of June, which was only the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost was labeled the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time on our bulletins. We pick right back up with where we left off, give or take depending on Easter and Christmas.

You see, there are **always** 34 Sundays of Ordinary Time in the liturgical year. The first Sunday is **always** the Baptism of our Lord and the last is **always** the feast of Christ the King. A little fenagling for Easter’s moveable date and the ways that Christmas (which is not a moveable date) accordion the year and we sometimes lose out on hearing the end of the Sundays after Epiphany or the first few on the Sundays after Pentecost.

Anyhow, not only is there a winter and summer/fall appearance of the green season, but one could very well split the summer green season from the autumnal green season. *Almost* right at the beginning of September. You see, where the winter Ordinary Time focuses on the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and miracles, the summer focuses on parables and healings. The autumn, then, leads to the rules. Well, there is always grace so let’s not think of them as rules so much as the parameters of the community that gathers in Jesus’ name. The way Jesus sets up his Church to exist not only in the world but among ourselves. One might almost liken the summer/autumn divide as the planting of seed and the harvest.

Over the summer Sundays, we hear Jesus teach and heal, he is planting the seeds of faith, showing what life in the Reign of God looks like. It’s possible! Jesus among us makes life and love appear in abundance. Then we look to the harvest, how will those seeds come to fruition in us, the Church. Well, it isn’t to say there aren’t expectations and rules, but rather that Jesus sets forth a vision of how we live his love in the world. Jesus knows full well how tough the world can be and how countercultural his message is. In this season he leaves less doubt about how to share and show love, there are less parables and more parameters, less shows of love and more lists of how to live. As we continue on (there are still 11 more Sundays, friends, beginning on September 7), let us hear again the call to not only belong to Christ’s Church but also to participate in sharing the love and life with the world in which we live.

Music Ministry

“Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine”



Join us in welcoming Producer, Linda Karn, Erie Native, along with guests Judy and Dennis Shepard as we view the film “Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine” with producer commentary followed by a question and answer. In conjunction with the Matthew Shepard Foundation, please join us in this informative evening. Although a free event, tickets will be required for attendance. For registration and further information please visit www.luthermemorialonline.org/concert-series. Tickets may also be purchased by going to <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/matthew-shepard-foundation>.



We invite you ring and/or sing with us this year!
Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 25 at 5:30pm.
Vocal Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 25 at 6:45pm.

2025 ELCA Church-wide Assembly



- Bishop Yehiel (Ya-hayl) Curry, bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, was elected V Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. He is the first person of color and first person of African descent to serve in this position in the history of the ELCA.
- The Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills, assistant to the bishop of the North Carolina Synod, was elected Secretary of the ELCA. She is the first person of color and first person of African descent to serve in the position. She is also only the second woman to serve as Secretary of the ELCA.
 - With both of these elections, three of the four officers of the ELCA are persons of color. This is a first in our history.
- An Association of Synod Vice Presidents was established to increase lay leadership within the Church.
- Approved: **Memorial A3 – Indian Boarding School remembrance:** Calls for (779-7) the church to observe the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools annually, develop educational programs and materials surrounding the history and ELCA’s complicity with Indian boarding schools, and provide ongoing recognition and support for the continued work to locate all known records regarding the ELCA predecessor churches’ involvement with Indian boarding and day schools, among other actions.
- Approved: **Memorial B14 – Consideration of Recommendation 1 of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church:** Calls for (646-144) the church to acknowledge the importance of accountability in addressing racism within all structures of the ELCA, to affirm the work of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Advisory Team, to request that the Church Council continue to work with the team to clarify the nature of mutual accountability, and to direct the Church Council to add a timeline to its actions taken and to provide progress updates to this church with a final report by fall 2027, including possible constitutional changes.
- Approved: **Memorial D4 – Stand of Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine:** Calls (742-38) for the ELCA, its members, congregations, synods and church-wide units to advocate for human rights and a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis by supporting policies that end the occupation. To join the World Council of Churches in calling for an immediate end to the mass killing in Gaza. To urge the office of the Presiding Bishop to petition U.S. leaders to recognize and act to end the genocide against Palestinians, halt military aid to Israel used in Gaza, and support Palestinian statehood and U.N. membership. To reject forced displacement and settler violence. To promote prayerful engagement and solidarity with those working for justice and peace, including ELCA partners in the region. And to amplify the voices of local partners and strengthen the partners in the region. And to amplify the voices of local partners and strengthen the ELCA’s advocacy through the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Middle East and North Africa Desk, the Sumud initiative, and the Witness in Society team, among other offices.
- The assembly approved (748-15) a resolution receiving the Common Statement [*on the Filioque*], following the unanimous recommendation of the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Committee of the conference of Bishops and the Church Council. after adoption, the assembly recited the Nicene-Constantinople creed, omitting the *Filioque* for the first time in the ELCA’s history.
- Approved: **Motion D** (530-236): Amending bylaw 5.01.E19 to increase the percentage goal of youth and young adult voting membership of the Church-wide Assembly, Church Council, and church-wide boards and committees from 10 to 20%. The committee also recommends directing the Church Council to develop and present a plan for implementation of this continuing resolution at its April 2026 meeting that also addresses barriers to youth and young adult participation.
- Further Motions were considered. And many were included in an *en bloc* option. However, the following motions were taken out of *en bloc* and the results were as follows:
 - **Motion F** – failed (102-540): The bylaw (13.22.03) would have limited serving as presiding bishop to two terms, or 12 years. The subsequent Motion G would have created a new bylaw (13.42.13) that would also have limited serving as secretary to two terms, or 12 years. The motion was withdrawn.
 - **Motion H** – failed (404-211): The amendment would have removed language from 19.04.02 that stated that lay membership in a synod would need recognition that they reside within the territory of the synod or the area close to the synod geographical footprint. The layperson would still be a member of the synod if they hold membership in a synod congregation.

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- **Motion J** – adopted (584-15): The resolution calls to refer to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Theological Discernment, Service and Justice and ELCA Advocacy, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer and Information Technology, consideration of the ethics and morality surrounding AI, including creating safeguards both in privacy and usage, as well as to develop a “faith and AI” study guide, among other steps to try and keep up with the rapidly evolving technology.
- **Motions K through X** – adopted: Thanks the members of the Church Council whose terms are ending and members of the church-wide organization staff for the work on the assembly; a resolution of appreciation for Eaton for her service; a resolution of appreciation for Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA, for his work during the assembly; a resolution of appreciation for Sue Rothmeyer, secretary of the ELCA, for her service, a resolution of appreciation for Lori Fedyk, treasurer of the ELCA, a resolution of appreciation for Yeheil Curry, presiding bishop-elect of the ELCA, and Mills for taking up their new roles; a resolution of appreciation for the nominees who ran for both presiding bishop and secretary; a resolution of appreciation for the Church-wide Assembly committees; a resolution of appreciation for the ecumenical and interreligious partners for their attendance at the assembly; a resolution of appreciation for separately incorporated ministries; a resolution of thanks for the ELCA seminaries, colleges and universities; a resolution of thanks for the time in worship and the worship team; and a resolution of thanksgiving for hospitality to the City of Phoenix, the Grand Canyon Synod, Region 2 and the nations who call these lands their own: the Hohokam, O’odham and Piipaash people. It also gives thanks for the Indigenous leaders who provided the educational experience through the powwow, AMMPaRO for its prayer vigil and the many volunteers involved, the Phoenix Convention Center, Hyatt Regency, Hilton Garden Inn and Sheraton Inn, including the staff at the hotels for hosting and caring for the many members attending the assembly.
- There were also several amendments, edits, and revisions of the Model Constitutions of the ELCA (Church-wide, Synodical, and Congregational).
- The 2028 Church-wide Assembly will be held in Des Moines, IA.

Who Is Bread for the World?



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

“Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help.”

Proverbs 31:8a NLV

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

Our faith in Christ is the foundation for our mission and compels us to love our neighbors near and far. We are led by the values of our faith to stand up for those experiencing hunger all over.

Food banks are essential – but we focus on advocacy. Why? Because federal nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities combined. With the stroke of a pen, our government leaders have the power to create policies and programs that impact millions of people at once.

At Luther Memorial on October 12, 2025, we will be participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. After each worship service that day, you will have the opportunity to write your own letter to Rep. Mike Kelly, urging him to co-sponsor important legislation that will make it easier for women, infants, and children to receive much-needed nutritional support.

Leaders in Congress really do listen to their constituents. Every letter you write to your representatives on Capitol Hill is read and cataloged – and tells your representative which issues to prioritize. When enough people speak up, hunger is impossible to ignore!

For more information about Bread for the World, visit www.bread.org.

Join us on October 12 to make your voice heard.

Christian Education

Sunday Mornings



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

- Children in grades PreK-grade 5 will gather for Sunday School from 9:30-10:15am;
- Youth (LYO) in grades 6-12 will meet from 9:30-10:15am.

Tenth Grade Confirmation

Confirmation classes for our youth being confirmed this year will be held on the following Sundays from 11:45am – 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

September 21

September 28 (CROP Walk)

October 5

October 12



Youth will be confirmed at our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, October 26.

Confirmation Class Revamp! – 11:30am



For students 7th grade through 9th grade, there will be four workshops offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: November 9, January 11, March 8, May 10) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfiCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation

will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, September 9
5:30 – 7:00pm

Youth and families continue to enjoy the second Tuesday of each month together doing service projects and taking part in fun events. Make LIA a part of your monthly routine and join us for our first autumn gathering. We will be meeting in fellowship hall.

Blessing of the Backpacks

We would like to send you off with lots of prayer and many blessings as you begin the new school year. Join us during worship services on **Sunday, September 7** for the Blessing of the Backpacks for all those school-bound this fall. Bring your backpack, briefcase, lunch box, and receive a blessing and a tag. The tag will remind you that God is with you throughout the day and school year.



Headed to College?



Many of our youth are settling in on college campuses and we want to keep in touch and let them know we are thinking of them and support them any way we can. Please contact Norma in the church office and share their mailing and/or email address so we can keep in contact. Thank you.

Second Sunday Soirée

Make the second Sunday of each month a time to visit with us in the parlor. We will gather for Second Sunday Soirées for fellowship and conversation from 9:15 – 10:30am. Thank you to Carol and Bob Davidson for hosting our September gathering. We hope to see you **Sunday, September 14**.



Faith Formation

Our adult classes will begin in September with a number of options and topics that will be of interest; Adult Forum, Brown Bag Bible, and Bible After Dark (BAD). The schedule will be slightly different this year for some, and there are resources available for others. So check it out now and let the church office know if you need to put in a reservation for any of the resources! **Faith Formation Calendars** for adults are available in hard copy on the Welcome Table near the Ramp Door. There are also electronic copies on the Facebook page and linked to the newsletters in August.



ADULT FORUM

Offered on the Second Sunday of each month from 9:15 – 10:15am, Adult Forum is an opportunity to form our faith and continue to grow as disciples of Jesus. Topics will be about history, liturgy, faith, and other topics which may or may not be “Bible Study.” **Adult Forum will begin Sunday, October 12.**

BROWN BAG BIBLE

Offered on Thursdays at 12 noon, Brown Bag Bible is an opportunity to grow more deeply in our understanding of scripture through more in-depth study. You are invited to bring a lunch. We gather in the Conference Room in the Pastoral Suite (Elevator to Floor 4). **Our September gatherings will be September 4, 11, 18 and 25.** We will be using Josh Scott’s *Cross-Examined: Reading the Bible in Times of Division* as our guide. A copy of the book is not required, but can be purchased through the church office for \$15. Orders will be placed August 31.

BIBLE AFTER DARK

We gather on the **FIRST TUESDAYS** of the Month at 6:30pm at Calamari’s Squid Row for conversation, fellowship, and mutual support among the saints! **Join us at Calamari’s on October 7.**

This year we will be studying *Parables: Putting Jesus’s Stories in Their Place*. The cost of the book is \$14 and may be purchased through the church office. Please reserve by Sunday, August 31.

Women of the ELCA

Tuesday Circle

Our monthly meetings will begin on September 2 at 3:00pm. All women are invited to join us. If you have questions about our women’s group, please contact Pat Young at 455-7736.



Deborah Circle

We’ll kick off September with our gathering in the church parlor on Tuesday, September 2 at 12:00 noon. 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.

Retreat

September 26 – 28, 2025
Camp Lutherlyn
500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler, PA 16001

The NWPA and SWPA Women of the ELCA will hold their fall retreat September 26-28. Our theme, Harvesting Hope, will reflect on the verse Romans 15:13:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”



Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group

**Tuesday, September 9 and
September 23**

Our evenings get a little cooler in September so a nice prayer shawl will surely be appreciated by a friend in need. Enjoy your knitting and crocheting and join us the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to work on a shawl and your favorite yarn projects. It would be great to see you so stop down between 10:00am and 12:00 noon.

If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, we'd love to show you. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476 or the church office, 454-0106, ext. 221 with any questions. Please let us know if you are low on yarn and some can be dropped off to you.



OWLS

**Wednesday, September 24
11:00am**

If you have a favorite game, today's the day to share it with friends. Board games, card games; we'll have some to choose from or bring your own. Fun games and a yummy lunch (provided) will make for a great afternoon. Join us in the parlor at 11:00am.

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



Indoor Yard Sale



Lots of treasures can be found at our Indoor Yard Sale. Whether you're decluttering your home or looking for some fabulous deals, this sale is just what you're looking for. Stop down, look around, and great items will be found!

**Saturday, September 6
8:00am - 1:00pm
Fellowship Hall**

Items for the sale may be dropped off at the church.
Books, TV's or large electronic items, and soft furniture will not be accepted.
Please contact the church office with any questions.

Family Scavenger Hunt ~ Sunday, September 21

Arm yourselves with a magnifying glass, tracking equipment and put your detective skills to the test at our Family Scavenger Hunt. Reach the mystery destination by solving all the fun clues. It's an afternoon of fun and laughter. We will begin at Luther Memorial Church where each family/group will receive their first clue and be on their way.



- Scavenger Hunt begins at 1:00pm and will conclude no later than 5:00pm.
- Firm RSVP to Sarah Prylinski, 814-882-1695, no later than Wednesday, September 17.

Erie County CROP Walk for Hunger

**Sunday, September 28
Beach One -
Registration at 1:00pm
Walk at 2:00pm**

We are walking for neighbors who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world! Join us in this special 50th Anniversary Celebration! Sign-up and start raising funds early to get a head start on helping even more of our neighbors in need on this special year!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2025
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sponsor a walker or walk yourself and take part in this year's **Crop Walk on September 28**. Take the afternoon and make a difference in our community to help fight hunger.

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, September 9
5:30 – 7:00pm

If you didn't catch this on page 5, join us for LIA the second Tuesday of each month. Youth and families get together the second Tuesday of each month for fun activities and service projects. Make LIA a part of your monthly routine and join us for our first autumn gathering. We will be meeting in fellowship hall.

Oktoberfest Celebration

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

FELLOWSHIP HALL
11:30AM

**DELICIOUS FOOD &
WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP
ENJOY!!**



Join us for our Oktoberfest Celebration.

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

Beverages Provided: Beer, Cider, Coffee, Water

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

Reservations would be appreciated to Norma at 454-0106, ext. 221 by Sunday, September 28.



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

Marilyn Bohn who died Sunday, July 13, 2025.

September Birthdays

Arden Fetcko 9-1
Joyce Mountain 9-2
Gia Fracassi 9-2
Michael Pancurak 9-2
Matthew Hedlund 9-3
Keri Cooney 9-4
Deanna Visalle 9-4
Joe Barbaro 9-5
Hannah Chaffee 9-5
Ian Heckelman 9-6
Lynnette Gustafson 9-6
Peter Lawson 9-8
Abigael Wolf 9-9
Aaron Wettekin 9-9
Mari Graffius 9-10
Brett Foutz 9-10

Chester Battersby 9-10
Sandy Barbaro 9-11
Ella Santillano 9-11
Diane Banks 9-13
Bella Schlecht 9-14
Wendy Kern 9-14
Brian Ambrose 9-14
Marcus Rogan 9-15
John Jensen 9-15
Austin Nickerson 9-15
Gary Flick 9-16
Anthony Cimino 9-16
Adalynn O'Leary 9-16
Joann Perry 9-17
Kim Wertz 9-18
Christine Gustafson 9-18

Thomas Hagen 9-19
Mary Alice Ross 9-19
Alexander Ruler 9-20
Elijah Schlecht 9-21
Patricia Martin 9-22
Gabriel Botelho 9-24
Grant Stelmack 9-25
Betsy Blore 9-25
Sandy Mantsch 9-25
Husaynzyad Adan Abu-Zabiba 9-25
Christine Johnson 9-26
Claudia Mosso 9-26
Stephanie Penberthy 9-27
Cecilia Montroy 9-28
Dave Griswold 9-29

Send a card to Joyce Mountain this month, our "Sunshine Birthday":

Joyce Mountain 9/2
Sarah Reed Retirement Center
227 West 22nd Street, RT 102
Erie, PA 16502



August 2025 Council Meeting

1. *Property Committee:*

- a. Luther Memorial Academy would like to display school photographs from the past 40 years of graduations. These would be installed on the wall across from the church office. An anniversary banner will also be hung above the displayed pictures.
- b. School Administrator, Michelle Thom, wrote and received a grant for security cameras to be installed for surveillance of the entirety of the building. The grant was written to include cameras that would also provide surveillance for the parking lot.
- c. The Property Committee acquired a bid from The Wilkins Co. that included all cameras and installation for \$16,000. The monthly payment for The Wilkins Co. to maintain security system and response is \$80 plus tax. It was unanimously approved that The Wilkins Co. install and maintain the security cameras and security services, and for Luther Memorial to pay for the remaining \$3,900 that the grant did not cover.

2. *Music Ministry:*

- a. Cantor Bryan Timm updated church council on the event “Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine” sponsorship letters (including options for advertisements in bulletins for the event), sponsorships submitted, and that the free ticketing service was up and able to track logistics of ticketing progression as well as make donations available.
- b. The Erie Community Foundation is one of the sponsors, donating \$2,500.
- c. The Luther Memorial Concert Series is also preparing for the Western NY Chamber Orchestra concert later this fall.

3. *Council Meeting:* The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00pm.

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

Sunday, October 19, 2025

3:30pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church, Oil City
reception to follow

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



Erie Gives Day 2025

Thank you to all of our donors for helping to make Erie Gives Day a huge success. The official results will not be announced until September 15, but approximately \$33,100 was raised for Luther Memorial Church, Luther Memorial Concert Series and Luther Memorial Academy.

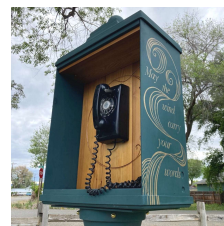


Dedication Ceremony

Sunday, September 21
2:00pm

Faith Lutheran Church
5414 East Lake Road, Erie

All are invited to the Dedication Ceremony of a Wind Phone at Faith Lutheran Church. This Wind Phone is the first in Northwestern Pennsylvania and provides a quiet space where anyone can reach out to loved ones they’ve lost, share what’s on their heart, and let the wind carry their words.



Light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

RSVP’s are appreciated by September 17, 2025 to 814-899-9653 or to faithpastor@gmail.com.



Luther Memorial Academy

Celebrate 50 Years

This school year Luther Memorial Academy is excited to celebrate our 50th year. It is the purpose of our school to have our children grow as Jesus grew:

in wisdom (academically),

in stature (physically),

in favor with God (spiritually),

and in favor with man (socially)

Join with us this year as we celebrate LMA: "Reflecting 50 Golden Years, Shining Bright for the Future!"



LET'S KICK OFF OUR CELEBRATION WITH THE LMA BLOCK PARTY . . .

LMA Block Party

Saturday, September 13
12:00 noon - 3:00pm
Luther Memorial
Rain or shine

This will be a Block Party to remember as LMA kicks off their 2025-2026 school year and we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our school. The day will be filled with fun and laughter with your family and friends and meeting some of our new school families, too.

Test your aim with cornhole tournaments. Adults; \$25 team of 2 / Children; \$10 team of 2. Register by calling the school office at 814-454-0106, ext. 222.

The day will fly by with all the excitement and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Delicious food
 Carnival games
 Bounce House

Great music provided by our DJ
 Beer & wine (donations accepted)
 Bingo

50/50
 Basket raffle



Welcome Our New Teachers

Ms. Meaghan Wood - Kindergarten

Ms. Wood comes to us from St. Martin Early Learning Center, where she worked with children PreK - 2nd grade. Ms. Wood loves to be creative, explore new things, and take on new challenges.

Ms. Deborah Barger - 3rd grade

Ms. Barger has over 20 years of experience in Christian schools. She is knowledgeable and kind and comes to us highly recommended. Her dedication will be an asset to the Luther Memorial family!



Miss Grace Lentz - 5th grade

Miss Lentz graduated from West Virginia University in May 2025, majoring in elementary education and minoring in special education, child development and family studies. She is working on a Masters at WVU online in Special Education. Miss Lentz is originally from Philadelphia and is excited to start a new chapter here in Erie at LMA.

Mr. Braxton Beaulieu - Music

Mr. Beaulieu recently graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a degree in music. He is anxious to get into teaching and has a lot of good ideas for the school year. Mr. Beaulieu will be teaching Music to all classes each Monday, as well as leading our special music events during the school year.

Labor Day



School will not be in session on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.
 Enjoy a three day weekend.

LMA Sunday

Each year this very special Sunday brings together students and families of LMA and Luther Memorial Church as we celebrate our school, the ministry, and personal relationship we share. We will see everyone at Luther Memorial on:



Sunday, September 28
Worship begins at 10:30am
Main Church

This is a required school day; all students are asked to report to Faith Chapel by 10:15am.

School Spirit



Show your school spirit on LMA School Spirit Days. Wear your LMA gear every Friday. Students wearing their LMA garb on those days are entered into a drawing for a small prize.

Need LMA Spirit wear? Purchase it online at www.luthermemorialacademy.org. On the home page select the orange "Order LMA Spirit Wear" button.

Parent Drivers

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



First Lego League



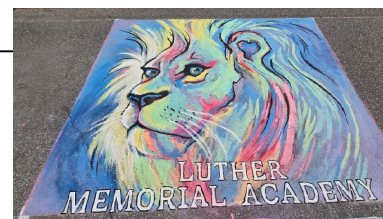
For several years, the LMA Lego Lion's participation in the FIRST® LEGO® League has been a cherished tradition at Luther Memorial Academy, and it is thanks to your support and dedication that this program has thrived. In 2023, the LMA Lego Lions placed in the top spot among Erie County teams and competed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

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

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

Celebrate Erie

Luther Memorial Academy was represented at Celebrate Erie this year. Mrs. Noyes spent the weekend drawing and painting the 10 ft. x 12 ft. square. The beautiful lion mural represented our mascot as well as a symbol of strength, courage, and bravery! Go LMA!



Tuition Procedure



School tuition payments will continue to be processed by Vanco Services, a company endorsed by Thrivent Financial, for the 2025/2026 school year. The cost for this service is paid by the school.

- The tuition will either be deducted from your checking account, savings account, or charged to a credit card. If the credit card option is chosen, you will be responsible for a 4% fee.
- The authorization form was included in your tuition letter for 2025/2026. This form is to be returned to the school office.
- Parents have the option of making tuition payments over a 10 or 12 month period or splitting into two (2) semester payments.

Payments



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

Wish List

Every little bit helps LMA; thank you.

- Bottled water – small and large
- Cases of paper
- Plates & napkins



- Monetary donations for Art & Music Supplies
- Monetary donations for the MJ Howell fund, which benefit teachers and staff

PTL Membership Enrollment



Family Name: _____

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

Email Address: _____

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

Fundraising Opt-Out

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

Name: _____

Student: _____ Grade: _____

Donation (min. \$75 requested): _____

Volunteers Needed!

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

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

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

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

Hey LMA – Join in for the Crop Walk

Sunday, September 28
Beach One -
Registration at 1:00pm
Walk at 2:00pm

We are walking for neighbors who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world! Join us in this special 50th Anniversary Celebration! Sign-up and start raising funds early to get a head start on helping even more of our neighbors in need on this special year!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2025
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

Luther Memorial (both Church and Academy) will have a shared Team this year as part of LMA Sunday celebrations. Sponsor a walker or walk yourself and join us on September 28 and make a difference in our community to help fight hunger.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Church & School Offices Closed 	2 12:00pm Deborah Circle 3:00pm W/ELCA	3	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible	5	6 8:00am Indoor Yard Sale 10:00am Quilting
7 8:15am/10:30am Worship	8	9 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 5:30pm LIA 6:0pm Church Council	10	11 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group		13 10:00am Julia House 12:00pm LMA Block Party
14 8:15am/10:30am Worship 9:15am Second Sunday Soirée 12:00pm Balliet in the City	15		17	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group	19	20 12:00pm Matthew Shepard Program
21 8:15am/10:30am Worship 11:45am Confirmation Class 1:00pm Family Scavenger Hunt 4:00pm VASA	22 6:00pm PTL	23 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group	24 11:00am OWLS Game Day	25 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 1:00pm Grief Group 5:30pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	26 11:30am LMA Dismissal 12:00pm Teacher Meeting	27 10:00am Quilting
28 LMA Sunday 8:15am/10:30am Worship 1:00pm CROP Walk	29					