

LUTHER MEMORIAL C H U R C H



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

Volume 52, Issue 1

February 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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THE SEASON OF LENT Pages 5-6
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HUMANKIND

Be Both.

Dear Luther Memorial,

Perhaps you've seen this on a bumper sticker. I follow a particular person on TikTok who owns a hat embroidery company and his signature cap is this saying. On a black cap he embroiders the word "human" in variegated shades of flesh and "kind" in the colors of the rainbow. While I was living on East Avenue, I would walk my dog Vesper near East Middle School and they often had this saying flashing on their electronic sign.

Whether you've seen it on bumper stickers, hats, signs, or never before until I just posted it above, I don't want us to just glance over this simple statement.

This month, our students at LMA are being reminded that they are Created To Be...KIND. It's a simple word, kind. I'm not sure I hear it very often in common conversation as much as perhaps I did in school. And I will be honest, I'm not sure I *see* it as a character trait of as many people and I think I should in the world today. A quick glance at the newspaper opinion section or at Facebook posts or perhaps around the holiday dinner table and maybe you've noticed the same thing.

Kind is a powerful way to live in the world. It is by no means meek and mild. It is not a blushing flower or doormat. It is not agreeing for the sake of not rocking the boat. It is not even the same as liking someone. Kind is how we are called to live out the love for one another—and all humanity—in the way Jesus invited us to. Perhaps you've heard another common saying, "You don't need to *like* someone to *love* them"? That's kind.

Kind is recognizing the innate worth of our fellow human beings. It is seeing the Image of God in everyone we encounter *and treating them as such*. Kind is correcting with love, admonishing with patience, disagreeing with grace. Kind does not mean always getting along, but rather not walking away. Kind is what we are called to in Christian Community.

Let me be clear: Kind is hard.

It is much more satisfying to bite back. It is way easier to give in to our emotions and instincts and protect ourselves—physically and emotionally—even if it is at the expense of someone else. But nevertheless, let us be reminded this month with our students that we are all created by God to be Kind. And let us strive for the better things, lean into Jesus' call to love, and rest heavily in the Spirit who makes it possible.

Pastor Jay

See you in church!

The Presentation of Our Lord

Sunday, February 2 Worship

Candlemas is Sunday, February 2! We will celebrate the end of the celebrations of the Incarnation with the remembrance of Jesus'

Presentation in the Temple. This is also traditionally the day to bless the candles to be used in worship for the coming year. We want to extend this blessing into our homes as we remember Jesus as "a light to enlighten the nations." **You are invited to bring a candle from home** (of any kind, color, size, scent) to be blessed during worship for you to burn in your homes in the coming year.



Souper Bowl Tasting



Need something to warm you up? Something tasty, delicious and full of variety? **The "Souper" Bowl Tasting Event on Sunday, February 2 is just what you need!**

We invite you to make a batch of your favorite soup to share. Tables will be set up in fellowship hall for each different soup and everyone will have the opportunity for a sample taste.

If making soup isn't quite your talent we bet tasting is so please come and have a taste of the many varieties available. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

Toasty Warm

Feeling that chill? Pick up some homemade soup on Sunday, February 16 and feel the warmth! Our youth thank you for your support.



Annual Reports



A hard copy of Luther Memorial's 2024 Annual Report can be found on our hospitality tables and a copy is posted to our church website at www.luthermemorialonline.org Please take the time to review the report and be grateful for the wonderful ministry happening in this place. As a reminder, we continue to actively use the church website to post Sunday bulletins, ministry newsletters and a daily calendar.

Music Ministry

"Experience Choir"



On March 2 we will celebrate Transfiguration and the end of the Epiphany season. With the changing of the season I would like to extend an open invitation to everyone to "Experience Choir". Regardless of background, experience, age or ability, we will be joined by community members and past choir members to learn and refine the Anthem, Psalm, and Gospel Acclamation for Transfiguration.

With emphasis on our communal song, the choir is tasked with preparing not only an anthem, but to review all liturgical music to provide the necessary leadership on more challenging pieces enhancing the familiar and forging the way for new favorite traditions.

Rehearsals will be held February 20 and 27 (Thursdays) at 6:30pm on the fifth floor to prepare for worship on March 2. Sunday March 2, we gather in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for warm-up and final run through. Because this will be an expanded choir with guests we will NOT be wearing robes; come as you are!

I truly hope to see many of you challenge yourselves and join us for this event. For further information, contact Cantor Bryan and he will provide you with the packet of music for Transfiguration along with links to recordings of the anthem for self-review.

Faith and Society



We continue our feature of Social Statements of the ELCA leading up to Church Wide Assembly 2025. In order of approval and publication, this month we study *Health and Healthcare* (2003).

A reminder that the summaries in our newsletter are presented on the ELCA church-wide website and were developed by the *Theological Discernment Department* in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

In future editions we will explore other Social Statements in order of their approval and endorsement. So, you can look forward to: *Human Sexuality* (2009); *Genetics* (2011); *The Church and Criminal Justice* (2013); *Sexism* (2019).

If you want to explore more about the Social Statement, Social Message, and generally about the Social Policy of the ELCA, you can find more information at: elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society.

“Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor”

Social Statement Summary

Like many social statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), “Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor” starts with a description of the social situation, explores biblical and theological themes, and then lays out implications. Section One acknowledges the crisis in health care in the U.S. and describes Christian responsibility. Section Two turns to the Bible and theology to establish basic principles and define terms such as “healing,” “cure” and “illness.” The vision of health as a shared endeavor in Section Three rests in a biblical view that wholeness is a blessing that God intends for all (1Thessalonians 5:23). In this vision, “A ministry of healing is integral to the life and mission of the Church” (p. 9). Guided by this vision, the statement addresses the health care system and its primary parts, from congregations to medical research. Sections Four and Five are dedicated to specific recommendations about equitable access to health care for all, and provide ethical guidance for individuals and families.

The title captures the theme of the statement: caring for health is a shared endeavor, an endeavor that requires sustained and determined effort from all of us. Each of us bears some responsibility for his or her own health, but health and health care also depend upon other people and conditions in the wider society. Such interdependence is at odds with the common message of this individualistic society, but it flows from the biblical vision of wholeness.

The biblical vision challenges the belief that illness equals disease and health equals cure. There are deeper dimensions to healing, such as restoration to God, and life within a community of meaningful relationships. “‘Being well’ for Christians does not mean we are untouched by pain and suffering. Human beings are finite and vulnerable, and so we recognize limits on what health and health care can mean” (p. 6). Being well for Christians means that we are able to participate in Christ’s love by giving ourselves for others. We share their suffering in response to Christ, who bore the suffering of all.

The statement’s vision means that health care should not be organized primarily for profitability: “Although health care goods and services may be bought and sold, health care is above all an activity of caring that grows out of relationships of mutual responsibility, concern and trust – and that cannot be reduced to a commodity” (p. 6). Rather, the statement concludes, “...health care is the kind of good most appropriately given on the basis of need” (p. 18). It specifies, “At a minimum, each person should have ready access to basic health care services that include preventive, acute, and chronic physical and mental health care at an affordable cost” (p. 13). Rather than encouraging privatization, the belief that health is a shared endeavor “makes public health services... the foundation for any health care system” (p. 13).

Since the vision encompasses the physical, mental and spiritual dimensions of people’s lives, this church believes health care involves more than doctors, nurses and hospitals. Each of us has responsibility “to be a good steward of his or her own health out of thankfulness for the gift of life and in order to serve God and the neighbor.” (p. 7) This requires a number of activities: keeping healthy habits, seeking preventive health care, attention to spiritual exercises and action in our callings as citizens.

Cont’d. on page 4

The statement asserts that congregations are in the health care “business” because they are centered in word and sacrament ministry, which offers “salvation” (“salvation” is from the Latin word for healing or wholeness). Congregations are to encourage healing through vibrant prayer, services of healing, pastoral care and congregational health ministries. The statement also recognizes and celebrates the many contributions that ELCA social ministry organizations make through “respectful and equitable attention to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those persons served” (p. 11). The vision of the shared endeavor means that the church is called to be an active participant in fashioning a just and effective health care system. The primary concern of the statement is achieving equitable access to basic health care for all, and so the statement calls the whole ELCA to commit itself to this goal (p. 18). The ethical principles of agape, love and justice are to guide that participation.

In 2003 the statement called for reform of the U.S. health care system: “The United States does not currently have a health care system that is capable of care for all people. Significant changes in financing and structure are therefore required” (p. 13). The statement did not name a particular system for achieving that reform but rather concluded: “Our obligation could be met through any one of several combinations of personal, market and governmental means, although none of these means alone can provide equitable access to health care” (p. 19).

Prayer Partners

The Prayer Partners of Luther Memorial Church has 11 dedicated members that meet every 6-8 weeks to review those on the prayer lists. They are faithful in praying and keeping the reasons for prayers confidential. There are 3 prayer lists:



- The short-term list is **1 year or less** (i.e accidents, hospitalizations, surgery, new acute illness)
 - The short-term list will be in the bulletin each Sunday.
- The long-term list is **up to 2 years** (i.e cancer treatment, dementia, addiction, personal issues)
 - The long-term list will be at the welcome table each Sunday for those members who want to include them in their prayers.
 - Our military men and women are included with the long-term list.
- The private list is confidential and is only seen by the prayer group members and Norma.
- The Grief listing will continue to be in the bulletin and the loved one will be listed for one (1) month.

If you place someone on the prayer list we depend on you to provide us with updates. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Graffius at 814-315-1074 or Norma in the church office.

Thank You

Dear people of Luther Memorial,

You are the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in need here and around the world. Thank you for your most recent gift to Lutheran World Relief. With it we are working diligently to help folks who have been affected by the hurricanes in the southeastern part of our country. Immediately we provided basic needs like water, food, and quilts/personal care kits. In the long term we will be assessing the needs and staying as long as we are needed. One quick story to share with you- in Asheville, NC, 165 veterans experiencing homelessness lost nearly all their possessions and the stability they were working so hard to rebuild. Thanks to the love of Lutherans, each of the men received a place to stay, an LWR Quilt and Personal Care Kit. They were incredibly grateful! Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Blessings, *Emma Wagner*



Ps. You can watch a brief video here and see the impact you are having in Asheville- [Hurricane relief: Homeless veterans in North Carolina receive Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits.](#)

Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group



It's still pretty cold so we're knitting more shawls and wrapping everyone in warmth. Now's the perfect time to work on those prayer shawls or blankets, or any project you have started. We look forward to sharing the morning with you on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am - 12:00 noon.

Mark it on your calendars for February 11 and February 25.

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



Valentine Luncheon
Friday, February 14, 2025
12:00 - 2:30pm

This event is enjoyed by so many that reservations were due by the end of December. The Valentine's Day luncheon is a wonderful event and appreciated by all who attend. The luncheon will be held at the Ambassador Conference Center this year, 7794 Peach Street.

Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with any questions. Thank you.

BINGO!

Get your tickets now for CASH BINGO on **Sunday, March 2.**

* **Doors** open at 12:00 noon. * **Bingo** will be held from 12:30 - 3:30pm

* **Tickets** are \$25 each. * **All games** are cash prizes of \$50

Tickets are available on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week.



Lenten Season

Lenten Devotional

Luther Memorial will offer a Congregational Devotional for Lent with reflections by our members. We ask that your reflection be no more than 200 words followed by a short two (2) sentence prayer. The scripture is provided on the sign-up sheet; please see Pastor Jay for further text that will correspond to the date you select. A sign-up sheet is located at the welcome table. The completed Devotional will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. All reflections are asked to be submitted by Monday, February 24. Thank you for your help in what will be meaningful devotionals throughout Lent.

Ash Wednesday



The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. **Ash Wednesday services will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00pm.**

For those who would like them; "Ashes On The Way" will be offered from 7:00 - 8:00am and 12:00 - 1:00pm.

Palms from previous Palm Sundays are burned to create the ashes we use to mark ourselves at the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Over the coming weeks, you are invited to bring in your palms from home for the baskets on the welcome table near the ramp door. As always, there will be palms to replace them distributed on Palm Sunday.

Wednesday Lenten Worship



We will be sharing worship and study around the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a series called *Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire*. About this curriculum and worship series from the International Bonhoeffer Society, English Division, LAMPa writes:

Through our work at the intersection of civic life and faith, we often encounter a Church and world grappling with deep divisions and deep questions about what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ. How does one hold onto their convictions while staying in relationship with their neighbor? How does one engage passionately and peacefully? What is the most faithful path to take where hatred and spite seem to reign?

Like many, we turned to the example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Not because of the superficial tendency of any "side" to equate the other side" with Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, but because Bonhoeffer's writings give us great insight to the struggle of figuring out what is the next most faithful step in a broken and imperfect system.

We were delighted that our wonderings about what wisdom Bonhoeffer might offer us led us to Dr. Lori Brandt Hale of Augsburg University. In her role as the President of the International Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section, which marks its 50th anniversary this year, she is well-versed in talking about Bonhoeffer with nuance, scholarship, and wisdom. And the Society was wondering about ways in which they could make the academic conversations happening around the anniversary accessible to more people. We were happy to be a catalyst to make that happen.

As Lutherans, we know that there are certain hermeneutics, ways of reading and interpreting, that can lead to grace-filled understanding, or that lead to condemnation. We practice distinguishing these in the ways we read the Bible, remembering Luther's exhortation that the Bible is "the cradle in which the Christ Child is laid." Where other harmful hermeneutics ignore Christ in favor of ideological interpretations, we hold Christ at the center.

Dr. Brandt Hale helps us understand that a similar tactic is needed in approaching the work of Bonhoeffer. Like the Bible, one can read any number of agendas or ideologies into Bonhoeffer's words. But like any good Luther theologian, Bonhoeffer himself would insist that centering him and his words would be a mistake. "Who is Christ for us today?" is the question Bonhoeffer came back to again and again, in his writing and in discerning steps to take in his discipleship. Centering that question led him to reject the Nazi regime and other forces that sought to harm his most vulnerable neighbors.

This curriculum encourages us to ask that question for ourselves. In this particular time and place, who is Christ for us?

How are we to best love our neighbors? What is the ethic of love and discipleship that will help us to be most faithful?

What are the tools at our disposal to live this out?

The answers to those questions, we believe, are crucial for us to answer as individuals and as a Church. We are so grateful for the work of Dr. Brandt Hal in giving us a space and the resources to ask them, and to discern the answers together.

We hope this curriculum inspires your congregation to enter into deeper relationship with Christ and our neighbors, and to be bolder in calling out forces that breed misinformation and violence. May we always seek to answer the call of Christ to be and love our neighbor, this year and always.

There will be two opportunities on Wednesdays in Lent to gather for worship and learning.

12:05	Worship in Sanctuary
12:30	Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
1:00	Learning in Fellowship Hall
6:00	Worship on Fifth Floor
6:30	Learning on Fifth Floor



Christian Education

Sunday Mornings

Second Sunday of each Month

Children in PreK- Grade 5 gather for Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 9:30- 10:15am. We're looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, February 9.

Our LYO, grades 6th - 12th, continues to meet the third Sunday of each month from 11:30am-12:30pm; February 16.

Messages for the Young & Young-at-Heart

It doesn't matter your age - Pastor Jay will share Messages for the "Young" every Sunday during the 10:30am service.

Confirmation Camp at Lutherlyn



Luther Memorial Church's 7th, 8th, and 9th graders will be attending Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherlyn from **Sunday, June 15 - Friday, June 20, 2025**. Information will be sent to all parents and students about the details of Confirmation Camp. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Adult Forum

Mission and Ministry:

The season after the Epiphany is the story of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. We will learn about the various ministries we are in partnership with here at Luther Memorial.

Sundays; February 2, 9, 16 and 23



Second Sunday Soirée

We invite you to stop in the parlor the second Sunday of the month for a relaxing time and discussion on various topics. **Please join us as we gather in the parlor from 9:15 - 10:30am on Sunday, February 9.** Please see Pastor Jay or contact the church office if you would like to host a Sunday Soirée with some small snacks. Thank you.



Brown Bag Bible



Join us for a relaxing conversation each Wednesday in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion together. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself as we study.

Topic through February: *O Word of God Incarnate*

Our last gathering will be February 26.

We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God's people. We will also explore some stories from the Christian Apocrypha that have been enfolded into our Christmas celebrations.

B.A.D. – Bible after Dark

Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book *Context* by Josh Scott. We gather at **Calamari's** on the **first Wednesday** of each month at 6:30pm. Copies of the book can be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage or other sustenance as we chat! **Our first gathering of 2025 will be February 5.**



Book Group



On the second Monday of odd months we gather in the parlor at 6:00pm for a Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay. We invite you to join us on **Monday, March 10** as we begin the book *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

Youth (and Family) Events

LIA ~ Lutherans in Action

Tuesday, February 11
5:30 - 7:00pm

A new night and a new time for some great get-togethers, fellowship and good food, too. Youth in grades 5-12 will meet the second Tuesday of each month to discuss service projects and enjoy each other's company.

It's Our Night for Fun!

Friday, February 7
6:00 - 9:30pm
Grades 5 - 12

The winter cold got you a little down? We're here to give you a boost of energy and an evening full of fun. Join us for a *Move Night and Scavenger Hunt*.

What goes good with Willy Wonka? Chocolate, so bring on the yummy munchies! And how fast will you decipher the clues for our scavenger hunt? C'mon down

and find out - it'll be a great night of fun.



Camp Lutherlyn

Summer Camp

Registration for summer camp begins on February 1. For seventy-seven years Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience!

Lutherlyn offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school.

In addition to summer camp programs for children and youth, Lutherlyn offers Family Camp for campers of ANY age to enjoy.

You can learn more about this summer's camp schedule and costs by contacting Lutherlyn at 724-865-2161 or at registrar@lutherlyn.com. Their staff is also happy to answer any questions you may have about the programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have.



**THERE SHOULD BE A
SUMMER CAMP FOR
ADULTS WHERE YOU JUST GO AND
SLEEP FOR 3 WEEKS.**

Women of the ELCA

Circle Meetings



- The Deborah circle will not meet in February. We're waiting for the snow to disappear so we'll see everyone at our next gathering on Tuesday, March 4 at 12:00 noon. Please contact Judy Johnson at 833-4600 with any questions.
- The Tuesday Circle will gather on February 4 at 3:00pm in the church parlor. Pat Young can be reached at 455-7736 with any questions.

All women are welcome at our Circle gatherings.

W/ELCA Board Meeting



Our Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 4 at 2:00pm in the church parlor. Please contact Pat Young, 455-7736, with any questions.

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.



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

JoAnn Guilianelli (former LMA teacher) who died November 21, 2024.
Tina Clark DiNicola, Judy McKibben's sister, who died November 26, 2024.
Fred Kern, Greg Kern's brother, who died December 8, 2024.
Eleanor Jass, Mary Lou Breyley's sister, who died January 7, 2025.
Bob Giannelli, Diane Giannelli's husband, who died January 12, 2024.

A Matter of Balance

Do you have concerns about falling? A Matter of Balance can help reduce this fear and increase the activity levels of adults with this concern. Take advantage of this free 8-week class held at Luther Memorial and presented by The YMCA of Erie in partnership with UPMC.

Class Information:

Mondays, February 24 thru April 14

11:00am - 1:00pm

Class will be held on the fifth floor of Luther Memorial Church



There is no cost for this class; it is **free**. **The maximum class size is 18 so be sure to register early**. You may register by contacting Ellen Hill at 814-899-9622 or ehill@ymcaerie.org or Norma in our church office. *Be strong, steady & safe - it's a Matter of Balance.*

February Birthdays

Jessica Copfer 2-1	Paul Young 2-12	Jane Kinzig 2-20
Rick Kern 2-1	Rosemari Solt 2-12	Lila Heckelman 2-21
Cheryl Hessinger 2-2	Alexander Spaulding 2-12	Coleen DiCenzo 2-21
Linda Burling 2-3	David Ditz 2-13	Sheryl Kern 2-22
Montie Collier 2-3	Christopher Allen 2-13	Cheryl Andrae 2-22
Lois Smith 2-3	Betty Pletz 2-13	Cathie Dugan 2-23
Vickie Diehl 2-4	Laura Symes 2-14	Emma Downey 2-24
Cameron Casey 2-6	Mason Henry 2-15	Pam Arnold 2-25
Ashley Koziarski 2-6	Carl Anderson, III 2-16	Nancy Benacci 2-25
Elliott Schumacher 2-6	Jordyn Williams 2-16	Keith Perry 2-25
Michael Snider 2-7	Beth Keller 2-16	Grace Spaulding 2-25
Cathy Meyn 2-7	Lydia Cowan 2-17	Amelia Lang 2-27
Jackie Lupo 2-8	Melissa Fromyer 2-17	John Bartlett 2-27
Adam Nicotra 2-8	Carolyn Carlson 2-18	Robert Carlson 2-28
Charlie Lintelman, 2-10	Shirley Collier 2-18	Kate Martin 2-28
John Vali 2-10	Lena Donnelly 2-18	Christine Fracassi 2-28
Lucy Fromyer 2-11	Jonathan Ulrich 2-20	James Benson 2-28



November 2024 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 3	28	113	44	185
November 10	42	76	28	146
November 17	34	76	21	131
November 24	30	72	33	135
AVERAGE	34	84	32	149



BAPTISMS: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: LITTLE, GREGORY JOHN - Date of Birth: January 10, 1982 / Date of Death: November 5, 2024 / Date of Funeral: November 26, 2024 / Pastor Jay Mitchell officiating.

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: None recorded.

December 2024 Council Meeting

1. **Minutes** - On motion, the November 12, 2024 Council meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **Pastor's Report** - Pastor Jay shared the following.
 - a. LMA Cookie Plate sale
 - b. ConfirCamp planning is going well with SWPA
 - c. Recognition of George Hedlund's baptism will be held during Sunday service.
 - d. Youth will be serving cocoa at the Downtown D'Lights celebration
 - e. Caroling at the BrewErie is Friday, December 27



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3. Property Committee -

- a. Carpet installation is complete. Replacement of carpet in school classrooms is being looked into.
- b. Luther Memorial Church and Academy sign to be placed in the greenspace has been approved by the city and permit is ready. Three bids were reviewed.
- c. Signage for the parking lot (or monitors) was discussed when events are held that coincide with St. Peter's.

4. Safety Committee -

- a. Exit diagrams for classrooms, restrooms, etc. are completed but not installed.
- b. Eight (8) volunteers to be trained as safety guides.
- c. Arrangements to be made with PSP to do training for possible active shooter courses, etc.
- d. The next meeting is January 14 at 5:15pm.

5. Council Greeters - Pastor has sent a link to council to volunteer.

6. St. Matthew's Endowment - Determining the possibility of "St. Matthew's" being one with Luther Memorial. Greg Kern has checked with UBS and ELCA regarding the merger of the accounts.

- a. If MOMS (Member Outreach Ministry) continues to be paid a separate account will be necessary at UBS.
 - i. On motion it was unanimous that a request for \$500 be granted.

7. Hospitality Committee - Continues to look for a volunteer to head this committee.

8. Treasurer's Report - Showed that money from the Memorial Fund was moved to cover carpet cost. A CD that matured was reinvested at a good interest rate. On motion the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

9. Staff Reports - Bryan Timm reminded all of the Blue Christmas service on December 11, St. Lucia on December 15 and caroling at BrewErie on December 27.

10. Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:00pm

January 2025 Council Meeting

1. Minutes - On motion, the December 10, 2024 Council meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Check Signers - Additional check signers are lined up and approved by Church Council for general checks. Additional check signers are needed for Luther Memorial Concert Series checks. Motion for additional check signers to include Pastor Jay Mitchell, Greg Kern and Bryan Timm was unanimously approved.

3. Nominating Committee - Vacant spots on Church Council to be filled by Liz Stroup, Ely Cooney and Jonathan Ulrich. Motion to fill the slate for Church Council members to be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting with Liz Stroup, Ely Cooney and Jonathan Ulrich passed unanimously.

4. Board of Counters - Discussion of creating a Board of Counters for the weekly offering rather than Church Council members count will be tabled until the February 11, 2025 meeting.

5. Council Members Required for a Full Council - The number of council members was increased when Bethany Lutheran Church merged with Luther Memorial. This also occurred with St. Matthew's merger. On motion it was unanimous to decrease the number of seats on Luther Memorial's Church Council to 12 seats.

6. Budget - The report was presented by Greg Kern, Treasurer.

- a. ECF based their numbers on a rolling quarterly number. There is a jump on that and the increase is shown in the budget.
- b. There is an increase for staff salary, excluding Bryan Timm. On motion it was unanimous to increase by percentage for staff income.
- c. On motion it was unanimous that Greg Kern revise the budget worksheet based on the prior motion of increase of income for staff and this will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting as is after those changes are implemented.

7. Council Meeting - The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00pm.

December 2024 Statistics

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 1 (in-person cancelled due to snow)			44	44
December 8	23	98	39	160
December 15	26	74	35	135
December 22	29	78	12	119
December 29	27	58	18	103
AVERAGE	26	77	30	112



<u>SPECIAL SERVICES:</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>3:00pm</u>	<u>5:30pm</u>	<u>10:00pm</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 11 <i>Blue Christmas</i>			25			25
December 15 <i>St. Lucia</i>		143			83	226
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>			152	56	76	284
December 25	33				18	51

<u>SPECIAL EVENTS:</u>	<u>5:00 P.M.</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 27 <i>Christmas Caroling at the BrewErie</i>	100	100

BAPTISMS: None recorded.

FUNERALS: None recorded.

MEMORIALS: None recorded.

LETTER OF TRANSFER: None recorded

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: None recorded.

WEDDINGS: None recorded.



"I just learned a lesson. Don't try to baptize a cat."



Luther Memorial Academy

The 3 “P’s”!

Shout out to our November and December Pizza with the Principal and Pastor students for exemplifying the character traits of THANKFULNESS and GENEROSITY. They earned a luncheon in the parlor. The award luncheons are held for one student from each class that exemplifies the monthly character trait. Stay tuned for our next newsletter to see who has exemplified the trait of CREATIVITY for the month of January.

February – Created to be KIND

March – Created to be CURIOUS

April – Created to be HONEST



November – Created to be THANKFUL



December – Created to be GENEROUS

Report Card Day



The second quarter ended on Thursday, January 23. Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, January 31.

Early dismissal will be at 11:30am.

After school will not be available as teachers will be attending school meetings.

School Break



School will be closed:

Friday, February 14 – Winter Break

Monday, February 17 – President's Day

Have a wonderful four day weekend!

Math Enrichment

Several middle school students have been staying after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to participate in math enrichment activities led by IU teacher, Mrs. Ellen Cass. Mrs. Cass has also entered LMA into the MathCounts competition this year! The competition includes a mix of academic math skills, problem-solving, and logic. The top six scorers from LMA qualified to advance to the Regional Competition which will be held at Gannon University on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Read more here: <https://www.gannon.edu/about-gannon/initiatives/mathcounts/>

Wizard of Oz

This year LMA grades 4-8 will be putting on the play, Wizard of Oz, led by teacher Miss Ciara Adams. Practices have begun and final performances will be Friday, April 4 at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 5 at 2:00pm.



Bowling Team

We have an LMA bowling team! Students in all grades will be playing on Wednesdays at Greengarden Lanes.



Read Across America

We will celebrate Read Across America throughout the month of February with author visits, a visit from the Seawolves mascot, and a school-wide reading challenge. Our goal is to reach 50,000 minutes of reading! We will honor Read Across America during the week of February 24-28 with dress-up spirit days. A school assembly will be held Friday, February 28 to celebrate our reading challenge.



Outreach Opportunities

- Middle school students will continue volunteering at Bethany Outreach Center during their distribution days on select Wednesdays during the third quarter.
- Giving Back: Students in Kindergarten – grade 5 are making Valentine Day cards for the seniors at Sarah Reed.

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!! Have them call to schedule a tour today!



Chuck E. Cheese

Wednesday, February 26
3:00pm – 9:00pm



Come and visit your favorite mouse and have a super fun time at Chuck E. Cheese with our LMA family and friends. Yummy pizza, snacks and games will keep you smiling all evening long. Lookin' forward to seeing everyone there for lots of laughter and fun!

Lutheran Schools Week

Celebration Service
Monday, March 3, 2025
12:30pm
Luther Memorial Church

Parents and families are invited to join with us on Monday, March 3 when we will be celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. We will have a service of Holy Communion to begin that week and it would be so much more joyful if you were able to be a part of the service.



Following the service there will be an opportunity to gather for some refreshments in fellowship hall. We will also be holding our second annual "SOUPPPPER" contest where Pastor Jay, Principal Thom, the President of our School Board, and the President of our PTL will compete to have their name as the winner of the Golden Spoon!

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

First Lego League ~ Still Looking!



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.

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00am Quilting
2 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Forum 11:30am "Souper" Bowl Tasting	3 	4 2:00pm W/ELCA Board Meeting 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 3:00pm Tuesday Circle	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 6:30pm Bible After Dark (Calamari's)	6 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir <i>LMA - 100th Day of School</i>	7 6:00pm Youth Movie Night & Scavenger Hunt	8
9 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Second Sunday Sorée 9:30am Sunday School	10 2:45pm LMA 50 th Year Planning Meeting 6:00pm PTL	11 10:00am Pericope 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Youth & Family Dinner 6:00pm Council	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 	13 9:30am LMA SeaWolf Visit 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	14 Valentine's Day LMA Closed 12:00pm OWLS Valentine Luncheon 	15 10:00am Quilting
16 8:15/10:3am Worship 9:15am Adult Forum 1:00pm VASA 11:30am Homemade Soup Day	17 President's Day LMA & Church Offices Closed 	18 10:00am Pericope 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 3:15pm School Board	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 6:30pm Worship & Music	20 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	21	22 
23 8:15/10:3am Worship 9:15am Adult Forum	24 11:00am Balance Class	25 10:00am Pericope 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm LMA Chuck E. Cheese Night 5:30pm Scout Banquet	27 1:00pm Grief Group 2:30pm LMA Play Practice 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	28 1:30pm LMA Assembly	Saturday, March 1 12:00 - 2:00pm LMA Free Ice Skating at Flo Fabrizio Ice Rink