October 2024 Life Together Newsletter





A Message from Pastor Karen ~

In her book, **The Magic of Tidying Up**, author, Marie Kondo counsels us to pay attention to the emotional links we have to our stuff. She asks the question: "**Does your stuff spark joy or has it become a burden?**"



We are all surrounded by so much stuff. Do we need it all? What do we keep? What do we give away?

A few weeks ago, at <u>our "1st in a Long Time – Rummage Sale"</u>, we were inundated with a staggering volume of stuff. Literally, thousands of pounds of clothing and household items were received during a matter of just a few days.

While on the face of it, our Rummage Sale was a fundraiser, I think our Rummage has a lot to teach us about life.

Just think about all that stuff. Books. Clothes. Housewares. Jewelry. Sporting Goods. Were these things we needed or were they manifestations of emotional connections and personal choices.

Because the things we own exist because of choices we made in the past, giving our stuff away can be a liberating exercise in personal growth and healing – of moving on and accepting the changes of life's next stages. How else can we understand what God is showing us about who we are and who he wants us to become?

In the story of the Transfiguration, when Jesus was surrounded by Moses and Elijah and God's Holy Spirit... the disciples wanted to stay on the mountaintop so they could delight in the holy moment over and over again... But Jesus said NO... It was time to move on – there was work to be done, people to teach, broken people to heal, and a cross to deal with.

There is never time in our shared journey to dwell in our past, because God is forever calling us to move towards his future.

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Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd Erie, PA 16506 ~ 814.868.8685

www.abidinghopeerie.org
Office email:
ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266 pastorparsh@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:

While Denise is on vacation through Oct 15th the church office will be manned sporadically. Please leave a message.

Sunday Worship: 9:30

Bible Study: 11:00

Sunday services can be viewed, live streamed, at 9:30 on Facebook or anytime on the website.

Staff

Office Assistant: Denise Miller

Coordinator of Music: Sheryl Williams

Sexton: Kayla Miller

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- When we allow our things to get in the way of God's plan, WATCH OUT!!! We end up getting lost and broken.
- And so, when I saw the piles of stuff crammed into every corner of our building during Rummage, I was wowed by all the offerings our friends shared in order that others could find joy and usefulness in things once thought to be important.
- So... Thanks to the organizational skills of Cindi and Bob Reid, together with their dedicated crew of volunteers, and all your amazing generosity our Rummage Sale was incredibly successful on so many levels...
 - 1. It allowed us to go through our stuff and gave permission to let go of the past to make room for our futures
 - 2. It brought volunteers together to not only help the church but to get better acquainted with one another
 - 3. We raised \$1,115.45 to be applied to helping our Food Pantry

- 4. We sent boxes of badly needed medical supplies and shoes to help the work of CHOSEN
- 5. We sent thousands of pounds of clothing, toys and household items to the Presbyterian run FREE STORE which benefits the rising number of Ukrainian refugees who are making their home in Erie
- 6. We sent a carload of blankets to the Humane Society
- 7. We sent gadgets to Habitat for Humanity
- We sent arts and craft supplies to help GECAC community programs
- 9. We sent a small library of great books to the Friends of the Erie Library annual BOOK Sale
- SO THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR MAKING THIS WONDERFUL EXHAUSTING EXCITING EVENT ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH FOR SO MANY!!! And God Bless you for being part of our team!

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Come join us for a shared viewing experience of the CHOSEN -on the first and third Sundays – following worship on the large screen TV in Fellowship Hall.

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series – WIDELY CELE BRATED AS A MASTERPIECE. Created, directed, and cowritten by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, it is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the people who met and followed him. The series stars Jonathan Roumie as Jesus as well as Shahar Isaac, Elizabeth Tabish, Paras Patel, Noah James, and George H. Xanthis.

Set in 1st century Galilee, the first season chronicles Jesus starting to build a group of disciples and his ministry, inviting people with different backgrounds to study under him. Before he performs his first miracles, Jesus calls the redeemed woman Mary Maadalene: the stonemason Thaddeus; the singer Little James; fishermen Simon, Andrew, Big James, and John. After the first miracle he performs during the Wedding at Cana, Jesus then calls caterer Thomas and vintner Ramah to follow him. The tax collector Matthew is called by Jesus after the healing of the paralytic in Capernaum. As the group travels through Samaria, and following his meeting with Nicodemus, Jesus launches his public ministry when he reveals himself as the Messiah to Photing, the Samaritan woman at the well.

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Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: Carolyn

Mariotti, Brian Gresh, Esther Klakamp, Judy Nordin, Mary Randall, Walter Nunemaker, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Ken & Donna Bagamery (Jeanne Tropper's sister-in law), Pastor Karen & Dave, Tom Cirillo, John Belek, Don & Donna Holder, Evelyn Senger, and our Little Library friends requesting our prayers.







October Music Notes



Happy Fall! The Choir is back to rehearsing and preparing for the upcoming Fall Festivals! We could really use a few new singers due to illness, retirement, etc., so now is the perfect time to consider singing with us! With the annual Stewardship campaign just around the corner, why not share your time and talents as well and try out the choir!

We will continue using With One Voice Liturgy, All Times and All Places, with a few new changes throughout the fall. It brings JOY to my ears hearing your enthusiastic singing each week!

Oct. 6th is Traditional Worship with organ and choir, followed by Howard Lyon providing Special Music at the Blended Worship service on Oct. 13th. We will finish the month with a rousing Traditional Worship Service on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27th, as we proclaim, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God!"

Looking ahead to November, please mark your calendars for Nov. 3rd, All Saints Sunday, when we honor the memory of our loved ones, and our Fall Hymn Festival on Sunday, November 10th at 3:00 p.m., followed by fellowship and traditional fall refreshments!

Blessings,

Sheryl Williams ~ Coordinator of Music

<u>sheryl4013@yahoo.com</u> ~ (814) 882-2830

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# "What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?"

Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA.

**October 8:** Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Theological Ethics, Education, and Community Engagement



**October 22:** Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Please make sure that you are using the below link for the event. Any updates for this Zoom link will be sent via church bulletin/email.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82592178246?pwd=\$1diWDIUcFhKMmRuQi9Jelc2U1NuZz09

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KASP Project Dignity: October Items, Hair Care Products. Donations can be placed in the basket on the shelf in the Heritage Room.

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### Prayer Warriors

Prayer Warriors will not be meeting in the sanctuary in October, but everyone is encouraged to pray/meditate wherever you are in solidarity on Wednesday, October 16 between 1:00-3:00 for the needs of our church community and the world beyond. Jesus said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

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## The Little Free Library/Pantry

Here is a story to share that portrays the effect of the library/pantry in our community. A beautiful homeless woman who typically dresses in white comes regularly to the pantry/library, taking a few food items and books during each visit, also leaving a prayer request that God would provide her with a home. (These requests are shared with Pastor and Prayer Warriors) I often would spot her late at night in the park, obviously sleeping in her car.

Recently, I happened to be at the church when she arrived at the library, and finally had the opportunity to speak with her. When I told her I was the steward of the library and had been hoping to meet her, she threw her arms around me and said, "You HAVE to let your congregation know that this church has SAVED MY LIFE! I have a home! My prayers are answered!" She spoke of how the books, food, and prayer box in our little library had been a major help during this homelessness period of her life.

This story is one of many to be shared in months to come, as an illustration of the impact this 'little box' is having. Please include prayers for those using our little library during your



prayer time. What a blessing you all are with your donations to support this ministry!

Food supplies are now low. There are plenty of canned goods, which can be put out as the weather cools (autumn and spring). Especially appreciated are cereals, nuts, dried fruits, peanut butter in plastic, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, pasta, sauce in plastic, mac and cheese, beef jerky, tea, cans of ground coffee, jars of instant coffee, ramen noodles, rice, dried beans, granola bars, fruit bars, water mixes (muffins, pancakes, cornbread, biscuits, Jello), dried Gatorade mixes, instant potatoes, cookie mixes, tortillas, grains (quinoa, couscous) and individual juice boxes. Please check for expiration dates. Thank you ever so much for your generosity toward this ministry of our church!

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Thank You Abiding Hope ~The School Bells rang, and you answered!! Once again, the Love of Christ spoke through your amazing outreach of donations for Bethesda Children's Home in Meadville and Bethany Outreach in Erie. The donated items were divided based on the request lists. Two laundry baskets and multiple bags were filled for each location, and they

were overwhelmed with the generosity of your donations. I am proud and inspired everyday by the Love and Caring of our congregation. Know that you have touched so many youths and added such a positive note to their school year. YOU'RE THE BEST! Thanks also to Thrivent Action Team for their support of this project - Analee Cree

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Eric Gives: AHLC received a check from the Eric Community Foundation for \$24,985.18. Donations from 23 patrons totaled \$23,801 with \$1,184 share from Eric Gives. Thank you to everyone who participated.

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**The Eric Conference of Lutherans** met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> via ZOOM. John Holmberg attended for Abiding Hope. To review the meeting minutes please click the box to your below!

Click Here for ELC Minutes

## Current Budget Update

#### **August Finances**

Income \$3,637.00 Year to Date \$76,037.03 Expenses \$9,751.96 Year to Date \$90,826.16 Difference -\$6,114.96 Year to Date -\$14,789.13

YTD Budget \$90,051.68

# September Council Recap

As usual another busy month at Abiding Hope. How Blessed we are! We are still in need of members to serve on committees. Watch for shoeboxes in the coat room, where you can leave a suggestion, or better yet your name asking to be part of that outreach. The door to serve is open!

- A motion was made and passed to bring all unsold paintings back to Abiding Hope to make them available to purchase by members. Five of the unsold painting will be donated to the Inner-City Art House.
- Bethany Outreach is moving to 200 West 11th Street. Will continue with donations in October.
- Working on better communication with Care Committee to establish a list of who is calling(called) on who/when.
- Electric bill over \$400. Awareness of turning off lights, readjusting thermostats needed by all who use the building.
- Discussion that money from Rummage Sale be used for needed items in the kitchen and assist the Food Pantry purchase new freezer.
- Electric sign out front was serviced using money from the Emergency Building Fund.

Respectfully submitted by Analee Cree ~ Council Secretary

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**Attar Flowers:** Anyone who wishes to donate flowers for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table on the narthex. Arrangements remain at \$20 each. Place completed form and payment in the offering plate or to the office by the Monday prior to your chosen date.

#### October 2024

# Don't Forget to Wish Trudy Mueller a Happy 90<sup>th</sup> on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>



## October Birthdays

10/05 Peggy Kaeberlein
10/07 Marcia Santabene
10/07 Jennifer Ng
10/09 John Coleman
10/13 Raelyn Loutzenhiser
10/16 Jacque Holmberg
10/18 Carol Korn
10/19 Ann Louise Bitzer
10/22 Ernie Robinson
10/22 Macy Loutzenhiser
10/24 Carol Heider
10/24 Trudy Mueller
10/25 Kathy Coleman
10/27 Joshua Paris

#### October Anniversaries

10/12 Rick & Therese Penn - 39 yrs.

10/24 Matt & Sally Zill - 54 yrs.

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Don't Forget to Turn your clocks BACK 1 hour on Sat. November 2nd

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## "I Like Gloppy Joes and Cookies."

**VOLUNTEERS and COOKIES** needed! (RSVP to Jacque Holmberg by November 7.)

Holy Trinity Sloppy Joe Dinner for the Homeless. (643 W 17th St, Erie)

Thursday, November 21 (from 4 pm to about 6:45)

This service project is supported by your hands, feet, and hearts ... and the Thrivent Financial Action Team program. Folks are needed to transport, prepare, serve, clean up and SMILE. Always a busy, fun, and meaningful evening!

Isaiah 58:7: What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry. (The Message)

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"Prayer Shaw!" Gatherings continue at 10a-12noonish for prayer, good conversation, knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer cards, lap robes for the homebound. Start a new project or maybe complete a piece you've started, but not quite finished. Experience not necessary, showing "how to" will gladly be offered.

The group will meet the Monday, September 30th and the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month in the Conference Room.



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The Pumpkin Fest "Caring for God's Creation" is Saturday, October 19 from 1 to 3 pm!



Once again, we have face painting, games, kids' crafts, pumpkin and bag decorating, Erie Humane Society, a Pet Blessing and more. Plans are in full swing with the assistance of New Hope Presbyterian Church, but we need you too. Volunteers are not only a vital part, but also an asset, in making this event a successful community outreach program. A form to sign with a list of areas where people are needed is on the center table in the narthex. Please consider offering a couple hours of your time to help... you'll have fun and be greatly awarded by the smiles and laughter of the children attending.

Next Pumpkin Fest Volunteer Team meeting: Tuesday, October 8th at 12:30.

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World Food Day - Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger Tuesday, October 15th "Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth"-1 John 3:18

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Give today (online, or through Abiding Hope's offering plate).

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All Saints' Sunday Observance Sunday November 3, 2024 Abiding Hope Lutheran Church



Remembering those who have passed before us in faith is very important. As part of our worship service on November 3rd, we will honor those in a memorial insert. If you would like to have your loved one included, please list below.

One included, please list below.

Submitted by:

Please PRINT CLEARLY, place the form in the offering plate by

Sunday, Oct. 27th or return to the office by Monday, Oct. 28th.

Fall Stewardship Challenge to Discipleship

God's promises are at the core of the witness of Scripture, but often we live in the in-between, the seemingly uncertain space between the anticipation of what might be possible and our responsibility to respond to God's goodness.



In our approach to STEWARDSHIP, this October, I will be dedicating our Sunday sermon series with a study of Moses and the Wilderness adventures. Together, we'll explore the impossible promises of a God who directs and challenges our expectations of economics and of each other.

This ancient story is the cornerstone of the Hebrew Scriptures and yet speaks in fresh ways into our contemporary lives, calling us to live in trust of God's goodness even when the world operates under scarcity, competition, might-makes-right, and a seemingly endless grind toward perfection. It all feels so overwhelming.

The liberation of the Hebrew people from an oppressive economic system will encourage us to seek freedom in our choices, patterns, habits, and practices of faith, so we too come to remember, that on the other side of the promise, there is always, always enough – that stewardship is a gift to our faith development... and that together, we can realize God's plans for Abiding Hope and the lives of each individual member.

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# Boscov Days -October 22

Boscov coupon may now be purchased for \$5 from Analee Cree or the church office.
Redeem the 25% off coupon on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. All money collected benefits Abiding Hope.

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# Get Ready to Vote! Important Dates for the 2024 PA General Election

Oct 21 - Last day to REGISTER before the November election

Oct 29 - Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

**Nov 5** - Last day for county election office to receive completed mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (by 8:00 P.M.)

#### **Nov 5 - GENERAL ELECTION**

Nov 12 - Last day for county election office to receive completed military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 4)

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**Special Sunday:** Julie and Andrea Saska, daughters of Andy and Vicki Saska, will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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The Gontheimer Painting Exhibit and sale culminated on September 18th with an estimate of



over 120 of Milton's paintings sold to the highest bidders. Mark Tannenbaum and PACA (Performing Arts Collective Alliance) on State St. displayed the paintings and provided the Erie community and Abiding Hope with opportunities to view and bid on the paintings. A special thank you goes to the Painting Committee for so expertly organizing the sale of this extraordinary gift from Milton's son Paul.

On Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> the committee is planning a special Sontheimer Sunday to honor Milton's talents and son Paul's gift to us with the dedication of Abiding Hope's Sontheimer painting, Les Arbres de Bruges (The Trees of Bruges).

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# Sometimes in Our Own Back Yard... October Green Team Article

Many times, we look high and low for persons, places and things that will teach us about the environment and how to care for our wonderful, God-given earth. And sometimes there is something right in our own back yard which is a precious gem that might get overlooked. This month we want to highlight the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA. This state-of-the-art, green-designed facility encourages visitors to experience the unique history and ever-changing, diverse ecosystems of Presque Isle State Park. It is the first building in the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks to earn a LEED silver certification rating.

TREC is an educational center dedicated to teaching visitors about the unique 3,200 acres of Presque Isle and the many different forms of life that inhabit the peninsula. **TREC** also serves as a center for research — contributing to conservation efforts and promoting environmental awareness, helping to preserve



the unparalleled beauty of Presque Isle and Lake Erie, the site of Pennsylvania's only seashore.

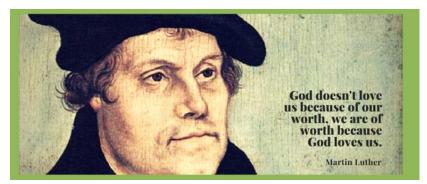
While some facilities along the Great Lakes offer environmental education and others do research, only the **TREC** offers research, education, and visitor services in one place, making it a unique destination for learning, wonder and fun. TREC is open year-round and offers free admission to its interactive exhibits. glass-enclosed tower and orientation movie. Learn about the history of Presaue Isle and how you can contribute to keeping it healthy, pristine and beautiful. Perhaps you can plan a day trip to Erie to enjoy and learn more about this wonderful gift to the community. And be sure to check the movie schedule at the center - they are exciting and very educational!! To learn more about TREC go to www.dcnr.pa.gov/stateparks/findapark/Presa uelsleStatePark.

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# October 2024

# Abiding Hope Calendar



2402 W Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16506 ~ 814-868-8685 ~ www.abidinghopeerie.org

| Sunday                                                                              | Monday Tuesday                                                      |                                                                                   | day Wednesday Thursday                                |                                                                               | Friday Saturday                   |                                                                                |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                                                                                     | Sept 30  Prayer Shawl Group 10-12                                   | Ministry Team<br>10:30<br>M. Lessons 4-6                                          | 2                                                     | 3                                                                             | 4                                 | 5<br>Music Lessons 8-12<br>Overeaters 10:30                                    |  |
| 6 Traditional Worship 9:30 Choir 9 The Chosen Viewing @ 11:00                       | 7 Prayer Shawl Group 10-12 Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30           | 8 Ministry Team 10:30 Pumpkin Fest 12:30 Council 6:30 ELCA Zoom 7p M. Lessons 4-6 | 9<br>Lunch & Listen<br>12noon with Pr.<br>Ralph Mineo | 10<br>KAFP 9-11                                                               | 11                                | Music Lessons 8-12<br>Overeaters 10:30                                         |  |
| 13<br>Worship 9:30<br>Bible Study 11<br>Choir 9 & 10:45                             | RSVP DL for<br>LNO<br>Music Lessons<br>4-6<br>Al-Anon 7:30          | 15<br>Ministry Team<br>10:30<br>M. Lessons 4-6<br>World Food Day                  | 16<br>Men's Night Out<br>6:30 McKean<br>Tavern        | 17<br>Ladies Night Out<br>5:30 Oasis Pub<br>and Tiki Bar 3122<br>on W Lake Rd | 18                                | Pumpkin Fest 1 to 3                                                            |  |
| 20<br>Worship 9:30<br>Choir 9<br>The Chosen<br>Viewing @ 11:00                      | Prayer Shawl<br>Group 10-12<br>Music Lessons<br>4-6<br>Al-Anon 7:30 | 22 Ministry 10:30 Care Team 12:30 M. Lessons 4-6 ELCA Zoom 7p Boscov Saving Day   |                                                       | 24<br>KAFP 9-11                                                               | 25                                | 26<br>Music Lessons 8-12<br>Overeaters 10:30                                   |  |
| 27 Reformation Confirmation Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir 9 & 10:45             | 28  Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30                                  | 29<br>Ministry Team<br>10:30<br>M. Lessons 4-6                                    | 30                                                    | Happy<br>Halloween                                                            | Nov 1                             | Nov 2 Music Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30 Turn your clocks back 1 hour tonight |  |
| Nov 3 All Saints Sunday Traditional Worship 9:30 Choir 9 The Chosen Viewing @ 11:00 | Music Lessons<br>4-6<br>Al-Anon 7:30                                | Nov 5 Election Day! VOTE!                                                         | If it is a ch<br>commun                               | ving Commun<br>allenge for you to<br>ion, please alert<br>served commun       | o come forward<br>the usher and y | d to receive<br>ou will be                                                     |  |

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# **Abiding Hope**

2402 W Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16506



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