



A Message from Pastor Karen

You think politics is nasty now? I remember back to the year 1972. Racial tensions and a nasty teacher strike held my high school in a death grip. Amongst all the tensions and gossip and weird behaviors... I thought I could keep my focus on my studies... Until... I lost my innocence the day a fully loaded plate of spaghetti blew past my head and straight onto the startled face of my high school's prom king. Only too eager to reciprocate, he picked up his plate of mashed potatoes and hurled it into the general direction of the cheering football team. In a matter of minutes, my high school cafeteria exploded into an active war zone. What started out as a lark, turned to mob rage, with books and luncheon remnants splattered against the walls, while screams and raw obscenities made the antique light fixtures tremble. From my hideout beneath the lunch table, I could see that this was no ordinary food fight; it was a confrontation between our African American student body and our White student leadership. Some sort of line in the sand had been crossed, and like it or not, long-standing grievances were being ripped wide open. I could go on to tell you about the black eyes and the dirty street fighting that marred an otherwise beautiful spring day. But what is more important, is the fact that after that first airborne plate of spaghetti, nobody involved would ever be the same again. After the dust settled, students would be given an ultimatum... either we resolved our problems openly, fairly and honestly and truthfully... OR Academy High School would have a significantly smaller class enrollment. Wisely, most chose dialogue. We learned that ugly rhetoric, stereotyping and finger pointing are never OK. We learned that black students had the same rights and responsibilities as the rest of us... and that our practically-perfect white leadership wasn't perfect after all. We learned that dialogue was always more effective than flying spaghetti, and that those who created the mess (literally and figuratively) needed to be involved in cleaning it up.

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Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16506

www.abidinghopeerie.org/

Office email:

ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266

pastorparsh@gmail.com



Church Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 9:30 - 3:30
Wednesday 9:30 - 12:30

*Note: Denise is on vacation
Sept 16-Oct 15th*

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

Pastor Karen's Message cont. from page 1

But most of all, we learned that in God's eyes, (and in the eyes of the gradually awakening school administration) all are equal; all are part of the same team.

Maybe it's time we reviewed those lessons, since history tends to repeat itself.

September marks the opening month of serious political debates, rallies and discussions in the USA. In our polarized age where most have lost the fine art of civility among rivals, it's easy to focus on our differences rather than what binds us together.

Drama and defensiveness posturing dominate online conversations and real-world interactions. We are left to feel stressed, alone, fearful and exhausted.

Many of Paul's letters are near-to-bursting with his frustrations over similar prejudices and

declarations of I'm-better-than-you from his followers. In Galatians 3:28 he wrote, "In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ."

You don't have to agree with others in order to accept them. While you may never arrive at a full understanding, you can still appreciate that, as beloved children of God, you and your 'adversary' hold quite a bit in common.

So, don't wait until you get clobbered by a flying plate of spaghetti; see your opponent through the eyes of Jesus. Spend your energy spreading love and forgiveness instead of arming yourself for an all-out old-fashioned brawl.

When you least expect it, God may use your words to bring peace in a climate defined by rage.



Little Free Library and Pantry Update

Since Penny added information regarding the Little Free Library/Pantry to the electronic sign in front of the church, visits increased! We have regular week she wrote a note of gratitude for prayer as she has a home now! Income remains a major issue so please join us in continuing to pray for her. One day it is hoped she will attend one of our services!

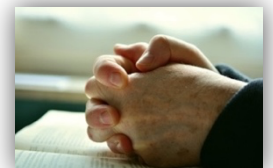
We are not in need of books at this time, but donations of bookmarks with room for an Abiding Hope address label would be appreciated! The pantry can use dried fruit, meals in pouches or microwave containers, cereals, pasta, rice, juice boxes, packages of graham crackers, and peanut butter in plastic jars. How grateful we are for your generous donations!



Prayer Warriors

Intercessory prayer is a major role of Christians. There are so many needs in the world at this very moment! Please join us on **Wednesday, September 18** anytime between **1-3:00** for silent prayer and meditation for the needs of our church, neighborhood, community, state, nation and world.

Remember, if you cannot join us, you can pray with us wherever you are, for as long as you can. God honors our prayers!



“What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?”

This online series will focus on ELCA social teachings and how we might learn and engage with one another around social issues in this election year. Each learning session will take place online via Zoom from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

September learning sessions include those listed below.

Revised date is now: [September 8 – “Abortion,” Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College](#)

[September 24 – “Faith, Sexism and Justice,” Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA](#)

Please use the link below to join the webinar, any or all:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82592178246?pwd=S1diWDIUCFhKMmRuQi9Jelc2U1NuZz09>

Passcode: 960988



Saturday Safari - September 7 - Gardening, Habitats, and Energy Efficient Living

Discover green living possibilities at Lutherlyn's Terra Dei Homestead! We'll explore organic gardening and natural pest control, enriching your environment by creating habitats for wildlife, and tour an energy efficient straw bale home to learn about energy conservation and renewable resources.



Saturday Safaris begin at 9:30 am and conclude around noon. **Registration with Camp Lutherlyn deadline: September 2.** (For more information go to www.lutherlyn.com)



Current Budget Update

July income	\$10,296.00	Year to Date income	\$75,437.03
July expenses	\$12,784.66	Year to Date expenses	\$81,324.20
July Difference	-\$2,488.66	Year to Date difference	-\$5,887.17
YTD Budget		\$78,879.65	



Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:

Mary Randall and family and friends of her and husband, Ed, Judy Nordin, Dave & Karen Parsh, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Tom Cirillo, John Belek, Shirley Englert, Bill Overmoyer, Evelyn Senger (more foot surgery on 8/20) Maddy Voland, Don & Donna Holder.



Crop Walk ~ September 29th ~ Beach One

WOW! 49th year for this wonderful event that supports Kearsarge Food Pantry and Second Harvest Food Bank. Last year \$23,000 went to Erie's local food programs. The walk is September 29th at one o'clock at Beach One. All are welcome to walk and, of course, donate. No amount is too small. Each youth that participates will receive a free T-Shirt. Adults can purchase a t-shirt for \$10.00 or a sweatshirt for \$17. Please see Analee to donate or sign-up to walk. Donations can also be put in the offering, noted *Crop Walk*. Come walk with us, collect from neighbors and friends and help keep people fed.

Final
Sontheimer
Exhibition

September 18
5:30 -7:00

PACA
1505 State St.



Milton Sontheimer's oil paintings will be on display until mid-September and available to the highest bidder. The Sontheimer paintings will be available for a final AHLC exhibit-viewing-bidding at P.A.C.A. (Performing Arts Collective Alliance) Gallery, 1505 State St. Downtown Erie, on September 18th from 5:30 or you may arrange a private viewing by contacting Mark Tannenbaum at 814-434-0687. At a Sunday worship service in November, we will honor Milton's talent and son Paul's gift to us with the hanging of Abiding Hope's painting.

🎵 September Music Notes 🎵

I hear people everywhere saying, "Where did the summer go?" As we approach the fall, let's look forward to new routines and a new music setting for September! We will be using Setting 6 - *All Times and All Places* from *With One Voice* (the blue book), with responses from WOV and Marty Haugen's Mass of Creation. It has been a while since we used this setting, but you will recognize it when you hear it! We will also return to singing the Psalms responsively.

Traditional Worship will continue the first Sunday of the month, September 1st, with Special Music by Howard Lyon on the second Sunday of the month, and Choir anthems on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, September 8th immediately following Worship at approximately 10:45 a.m. Rehearsals

usually last about an hour, just enough time to gather for a family meal at Noon! Now is the time to try out the choir while we are all learning new music together! The ability to read music or sing a solo is not necessary. That is why we have a choir, so that *many* voices together can make a beautiful sound!

Looking way ahead to November, please put Sunday, November 10th at 3:00 pm on your calendars for another Hymn Festival, this time featuring hymns and songs for the fall festival seasons. We will then gather downstairs for traditional fall refreshments!

Please mark your calendars and enjoy the rest of our beautiful Erie summer!

Blessings,

Sheryl Williams - Coordinator of Music
sheryl4013@yahoo.com - (814) 882-2830



School Supplies

That time of the year to get back into the routine, yet the supply list is long. To help families and organizations we are collecting supplies for Bethesda Lutheran Services in Meadville and Erie and Bethany Outreach. Both have supplied us with some needs for the families that they service. Items such as small binders, glue sticks, highlighters, pencils, markers, dry erase markers, backpacks, zipper pencil pouches, etc. and some personal items for

Bethesda for girls ages 5 -18 such as underwear, bras (no underwire) and socks.

Deadline: September 10th. Collection area in the Narthex. Questions call the office. Cash also welcomed; we will do the shopping. Thank you to Thrivent Financials' Action Team program for the seed money for this activity and for your support to help these children of God start the school year supplied and supported by your kindness.

Council Recap of August 13, 2024 Meeting

Our meeting started with a presentation by Nancy Cunning and Ed Whitbred concerning the importance of AHLC Committees being organized as a solid foundation in our church with council members being active on a committee. Council representatives will make sure when a key member of a committee steps down, the other members are as aware of what the mission is of the committee and what they are doing. This is key to our church continuing a stable, strong growth.

- Intense discussion about use of the funds from the "Rummage Sale". As we found with the paintings, listing a cause, helps with sales.
- Working towards completing plans to show **The Chosen** TV series after Sunday services and choir practice
- New faucet installed in the kitchen - Thank you Rich Filson
- Staff reviews for Secretary and Custodian were done in July
- Denise on vacation for a month beginning September 16th- Office coverage needed

Respectfully submitted by - *Analee Cree* - Council Secretary



ELCA Votes! Part of the conclusion of "A social message on ... Government and Civic Engagement in the United States:

Discipleship in a Democracy" (as adopted unanimously by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on June 24, 2020.)

We Lutherans are grateful when government functions as God's gift and critical when it fails. While many have had their trust betrayed by government, this church affirms that government is indispensable for safeguarding and improving human life and creation. At the same time, this church affirms that government's failures and injustices need to be remedied through robust civic engagement. As members of the ELCA and as residents of this nation we will have serious disagreements about specific policy choices regarding what government should do or not do. We recognize that our siblings in faith can, in good conscience, reach different conclusions as to how to best serve our neighbor in complex circumstances. This recognition is healthy for us as a church and as residents of this nation.

Although we may disagree about the best ways to achieve the public good, we do not disagree about our shared responsibility to seek it. We must also remember that our judgements and participation will always be marked by sin. Still, God's care for human society calls us to rise again each day, forgiven and nurtured through our baptism to appreciate—and do—the work of self-government.

Upcoming Dates

- Sept 8** ~ Choir resumes Sundays @ 10:45
- Sept 9** ~ Prayer Shawls group begins again 10 -12noon
- Sept 11**~ Lunch & Listen resumes 12 noon
- Sept 18** ~ Final art exhibit at PACA
- Sept 20 & 21**~ Rummage Sale 9-3
- Sept 29** ~ Crop Walk
- Oct 9** ~ Lunch & Listen 12 noon
- Oct 19** ~ Pumpkin Fest 1 to 3
- Oct 22** ~ Boscov's Coupon Savings Day

September Birthdays

- 9/1 Dan Kaeberlein
- 9/2 Kim Paris
- 9/5 Dennis Hancock
- 9/6 Brian Gresh
- 9/6 Penny Carlisle
- 9/7 Carolyn Mariotti
- 9/8 Olivia Paris
- 9/10 Weston Bucci
- 9/15 Damian Santabene
- 9/19 Ryan Carlisle
- 9/25 Dick Stoker
- 9/25 Bradley Ng
- 9/26 Brenda Huth
- 9/26 Lois Kuhns
- 9/26 Diana Stoker
- 9/26 Wesley Paris
- 9/27 Eileen Baughman
- 9/29 Barb Paris
- 9/29 Ken Smith

Sept Anniversaries

- 9/2 Don & Marion Fuller 73 yrs.
- 9/4 Bill & Irene Overmoyer 29 yrs.
- 9/20 Dick & Diana Stoker 54 yrs.
- 9/23 Bill & Janet Getson
- 9/24 Brian & Jennifer Ng 18 yrs.
- 9/27 Damian & Marcia Santabene ~ 48 yrs.

Lunch AND Listen Speaker Series **Wednesday, September 11th @ 12:00** Brown Bag Lunch at 12 noon Speaker 12:30 to 1:30



PACA Performing Artists Alliance on State St in Erie

MARK TANENBAUM – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMING ARTISTS COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE
 PACA is home to four floors of artists, artisans and creative entrepreneurs. Operating under the motto “Live Forward” Mark Tanenbaum guides this performing arts center and theater through plays, concerts, dance performances, art exhibitions, workshops, classes and more. Join us for an hour with this remarkable man and discover the “not so hidden” joys of one of Erie’s most valuable venues.

Bring a sandwich, have a cup of good Lutheran coffee, (we’ll provide the cookies). Hear from a wide range of folks with a story to tell and the willingness to tell it.

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
 2402 W Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA
 814-868-8685
www.abidinghopeerie.org

All are Welcome
 It's Free

Wednesday, September 11:
 AHLC’s **Lunch & Listen** begins a new year with series of informative, interesting and, at times, humorous speakers. The first guest for this Fall season is **Mark Tanenbaum** from **P.A.C.A.** which houses a center for the performing arts, artisans, artist and creative entrepreneurs. BYO lunch 12n, speaker, 12:30. Complimentary beverages & dessert.



SATURDAY OCTOBER 19TH ~ 1 TO 3 FREE FAMILY FUN

fest PUMPKIN

ABIDING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday, October 19: Plans are in full swing for the **Pumpkin Fest** and not only are volunteers 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 out ... you’ll have fun and be greatly rewarded by the smiles and laughter of the children attending.

Back-to-School Giving

From **Abiding Hope** TO **Bethesda Lutheran Services** & **Bethany Outreach Center**

Bring in stuff by Sept. 10

Book Bags	Notecards
Erasers	Dry Erase markers
Highlighters	Ear Buds
Glue Sticks	Zippered Pencil Bags
2-Pocket Folders	Mechanical Pencils
Black Sharpies	Bras
Pencils NO SHARPENERS!	Underwear
Loose Leaf Paper	
Composition Notebooks NO SPIRALS!	

See article on page 4.

Donation baskets are in the narthex.

Deadline: Sept 10th

1st Annual AHLC

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday
Sept 20th & 21st
9AM-3PM

Drop off your donations at the church on Sunday the 15th after church or the Mon, Tues or Wed AM, Sept 16, 17 or 18th.

Abiding Hope - 2402 W Grandview Blvd



September 2024 Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Traditional	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 New Member, Ann Louise Bitzer Received	Labor Day Office Closed Al-Anon 7:30	No Ministry Team today	Tops 9-11			Overeaters 10:30 Saturday Safari @ Lutherlyn (Pg. 3)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
God's Work Our Hands Day Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir 10:45	Prayer Shawls meet 10-12 Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	Ministry Team 10:30 Council 6:30 M. Lessons 4-6 Deadline for school supplies	Tops 9-11 Lunch & Listen 12noon with Mark Tanenbaum (See pg. 6)	KAFP 9-11		Music Lessons 8- 11 Overeaters 10:30
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir Rehearsal 10:45	Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	Ministry Team 10:30 Music Lessons 4- 6	Tops 9-11 Prayer Warriors 1-3 PACA Final Exhibit of Paintings (Pg. 4)	Set-up Rummage Sale	Rummage Sale 9-3 <i>Autumn begins</i>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 LNO RSVP DL	Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	Ministry Team 10:30 Music Lessons 4- 6	Tops 9-11 Men's Night Out @6:30 - TBD	KAFP 9-11 Ladies Night Out 5:30 @ AHLC with catered dinner & BUNCO		Music Lessons 8-11 Overeaters 10:30
29 CROP WALK Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 World Hunger Appeal Day	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #fff9e6;"> <p>Receiving Communion during Worship</p> <p>If it is a challenge for you to come forward to receive communion, please alert the usher and you will be served communion at your seat.</p> </div>				

Ladies Night Out will be **Thursday, September 26th at 5:30**. This month our evening out will be an evening at AHLC with a catered dinner and BUNCO. BUNCO is an easy to play card game with dice that can be played while conversing, laughing and partaking of a cool beverage or 2. All ladies and their friends are invited but we will need an RSVP and \$15 (for the meal) by Sunday the 22nd. If you need a ride to the church, please let Analee or Nancy. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please leave \$15 in the offering plate in an envelope marked LNO/Sept or leave payment in the office.

Ed Randall passes on August 22nd ~ Mary Randall's husband of 43 years passed away in his sleep last Thursday, August 22nd. Mary is often seen greeting members on Sunday mornings. Ed, a devout catholic, often accompanied Mary to AH events.

The Kloecker Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Visitation is on Tuesday the 27th from 4 to 7pm, with the funeral service at Kloecker's the following morning at 10. You are invited to a funeral luncheon following at Abiding Hope.

Ed's obituary can be viewed here: <https://www.goerie.com/obituaries/psom0921491>.



Boscow Days - October 22 - Keep this day free on your calendar. You can purchase a 25% discount card for \$5. See Analee in October to get this deal. All money collected benefits Abiding Hope.



Thank you Note Many, many thanks to my church family for all the cards, calls, texts, and emails brimming with encouragement prior to and continuing after my July surgery! How blessed I am to have such support and prayers!! I cannot express how they continue to inspire me on this long road to full recovery! God is so Good!! Blessings and Gratitude, Connie Kerr Vogt



Watch for date, and location of **September's Men's Night Out** yet to be determined. All male members (plus friends) are welcome to stop in and join the group for an evening of "guy" conversation, good food and an adult beverage (if you choose). No RSVP.



Save the Date! Volunteers will be needed on November 21 for the Holy Trinity Sloppy Joe dinner. (another Thrivent Action Team project!) - Jacque Holmberg



KAFP Project Dignity: Donations can be place in the basket on the shelf in the Heritage Room. **September items: Paper Products.**



Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to donate flowers for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements- \$20.00 each. Place the completed form and payment in the offering plate, or to the office by the Monday prior your chosen Sunday.



Denise – Our Office Manager - will be on a long, much needed and deserved vacation from September 16th and returning on October 16th. We are looking for folks to donate a couple hours of time during Denise's vacation to answer phones, check voice mail and the mailbox, nothing detailed. Please see Analee for additional information or to volunteer. Thank you.



Special Music ~ Gem City Concert ~ Game Night ~
Ladies Night Out ~ Backpack Blessing ~ Picnics

August

at Abiding Hope



Fun Times ~
Great Memories



Special
Thanks
to All!



1st Annual AHLC

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday
Sept 20th & 21st
9AM-3PM

Drop off your donations at the church on Sunday the 15th after church or the Mon, Tues or Wed AM, Sept 16, 17 or 18th.

Abiding Hope - 2402 W Grandview Blvd



Abiding Hope's First Rummage Sale

Friday & Saturday, September 20 & 21
from 9 to 3 in the lower level.

- Proceeds to improve our kitchen
- We need your gently used household items, small furniture, clothing, and garden items
- Drop off items Sept 15th & 16th 10-12 & 6-8 and Sept 17th 10:30 -12:30

Volunteers are needed to pre-sort donations as they arrive, set-up for the sale, cashier and work the sale. Please complete sign-up sheet in narthex or contact Cindi Reid at 814-392-6330.

"Prayer Shawl" Gathering to return on Monday, **September 9** from 10 to 12 noon Ladies are welcome to join the group for prayer, good conversation, knitting, crocheting shawls, prayer cards, lap robes for the homebound whatever projects you have going. Start a new or maybe complete a piece you've started, but not quite finished. Experience not necessary, showing "how to" will gladly be offered. Frequency of meetings will be discussed.

Prayer Shawl Group
to meet again

Beginning Monday, Sept 9
from 10 to 12-ish

Ladies are welcome to join the "Prayer Shawl Gathering", reconvening after a 4 year hiatus. Join us for prayer, good conversation, and knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer cards, or lap robes for the homebound. Or start a new project, or maybe complete an unfinished one. Experience not necessary... we'll provide instructions and yarn. Frequency of the meetings will be discussed.

Contact Jeanne Tropper for more information.



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September 2024