



2024 Annual Report

Annual Meeting
Jan 26, 2025~11 am



Abiding Hope
Lutheran Church
2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16506





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Staff & Leadership

- Pastor**
The Reverend
Karen Parsh
Office Assistant
Denise Miller
Coordinator of Music
Sheryl Williams
Sexton
Kayla Miller
2024 Church Council
President
Andy Saska
Vice President
Penny Gresh
Secretary
Analee Cree
Treasurer
Michele Rion
Financial Secretary
Cindy Filson
Council Members
Pastor Karen
Rich Filson
Lois Kuhns
Larry Ruhlman
Dave Cuning
Diana Stoker



Abiding Hope 2024 Annual Report

Litany and Prayer for Celebrating a Community of Faith

(Please read responsively)

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Receive our prayer, O God. Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world. Amen.

Our Vision:

To be a welcoming, caring, and healthy Christian community with people actively engaged as followers of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to be known in our community for local, national, and global outreach; ministry with people of all ages - individuals, and families; while offering joyful, creative expressions of worship, learning, and service.

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Annual Report of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us.

Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ.

We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond.

We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word.

In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him. God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith.

Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you.

Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

In Christ, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton –

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church USA



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Bishop Michael Lozano's Report

1 January 2025

The Name of Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. John 1.1-5

Dear Members of the Northwestern Lutheran Synod,

By our human counting another year has come to pass and a new one is beginning, and I find myself reflecting on the many cultures both globally and nationally I have encountered this past year.

Many place an emphasis on the New Year holiday with a focus of gathering to be with family and loved ones and some emphasize the religious aspects of watching through the night or going to the temple to pray or seek a blessing for the new year. When we gather, we also must eat, and particular foods take on new or old meanings at this time of the year. And as I was recently reminded as I gathered with my family, to tell stories. These customs and traditions, the things we do as we count the turning of the year, bind family, communities and cultures together.

I find myself looking back at this time of the year. Maybe you do as well. It is easy to find the negative. I've read it takes seven or eight good or positive things to counter one negative thing.

So here are a few positives from our life as synod.

1. Lutherlyn rededicated their outdoor chapel space because of their capital campaign.
2. The Lutheran Home at Kane began their building expansion project after a successful start to their capital campaign.
3. We held our first Bishop's Day of Learning with Dr. Teresa Smallwood as our inaugural speaker.
4. Our synod youth, young adults and adults attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA with a majority taking an Amtrak train ride for the first time.
5. The Rev. Kevin Schafer was ordained and installed as pastor to St. John, Johnsonburg.
6. We renewed our partner church relationships with the Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland (Evangelical Church of Central Germany) and the Karagwe Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
7. Multiple congregations celebrated significant anniversary years and Zion, Oil City began the transformative process whereby the property and assets of Zion would be gifted to Good Hope and Zion Community Center formed and the members of Zion transferring their membership to Good Hope.

Another successful Authorized Lay Worship Leader training cycle was completed.

I know I've missed a few other positive events in our synod, but these are the ones which come most quickly to mind. There are more events on my calendar involving routine meetings and events which keep things moving forward. These too could be thought of as positive as they lead to successful outcomes, though sometimes it is hard to see them as such in the midst of an event or meeting.

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I am sure 2025 will be filled with various challenges, many of which could be viewed negatively. But our theology is one which believes God is with us in the negative, in the suffering, in the midst of the impossible and overwhelming moments. For in the beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word is life and light no darkness can overcome. May God bless each of us with new eyes to see the good and positive in our families, communities and world around us in the coming new year. And the minds and hearts to act when we encounter the negative with compassion, mercy and love.

Called to Serve, Bishop Michael L. Lozano



Rev. Karen Parsh, (proud) Pastor of Abiding Hope for almost 5 years

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

In the past year, I've come to experience what it means to be a member of a living / loving / breathing / growing body of Believers... You have wrapped me in compassion and understanding, you have shown me grace, and you have given me the courage to be your pastor when my life hit the Moving Day Blues (twice thanks to a failed first attempt) ... and when my husband's illness requires my attention you have done everything you could to make things work. You even made the best of my situation, when you generously allowed my dog Delilah to come to church.

Together, we have shared a series of learning experiences that have shown us what it means to be a family.

Our congregational effort to upgrade our sound system was a strong statement of your commitment to spreading our ministries. The bill was paid long before we ever expected to make it happen. Well done!!!

Our Lunch and Listen series brought speakers into our community and neighbors who looked forward to our conversations – Many thanks to Ed Whitbred for his energy and wisdom in structuring this program. And certainly, as we face the new year, we are looking for someone to fill Ed's mighty shoes... as he is taking a well-deserved rest.

Our Easter Flock and Pumpkin Fest have shown creativity and wisdom in connecting with the kids of our community... We are hoping to expand that initiative by offering a reading program at Abiding Hope in the coming year.

Whoever guessed that our Little Library would offer such an incredible opportunity for ministry. Connie and Jerry Vogt, who have run this program, tell stories of how some of our hungriest and neediest neighbors have relied on this ministry to get them through long cold nights.

Our Food Distribution Ministry... first under the direction of Bill Overmoyer, and currently under the direction of Rich Filson – with lots of support from Cindy. This vital ministry outreach to some of the most fragile of our community, has been beautifully served by our team, but as governmental spending decreases and food becomes scarcer... our church volunteers will need to grow ever more creative in supporting this essential mission.

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Our first rummage sale in a long time, was ENORMOUS!!!! Thanks to the long list of volunteers who made it possible to put it together and take it apart... and to the diligence of Cindi and Bob Reid... backed up by some of our most active volunteers who pooled their efforts in setting up and taking down.

Then there are our Bible study offerings, including our Lenten Wednesdays, our Sunday post church discussions on Mark, film series, The Chosen, and a collection of other study opportunities.

Serving alongside you for nearly five years fills my heart with joy and gratitude. Your encouragement, forgiveness, and support have shaped our community into one of true faith and love.

I am inspired by our elected leaders, devoted volunteers, gifted musicians, and our ever creative and dedicated Leadership Team (which has always been and will be open to anyone who would like to be part of the ministry.)

Nancy Cuning, office volunteer, Denise our ever-faithful secretary and Sheryl Williams our exceptional Minister of Music and Choir Director.... and the entire team of individuals give so much of themselves to make our congregation as active and as special as it is, are deeply and lovingly appreciated.

The inspiring success of our "Sontheimer Art Auction" appeal was an incredible adventure. Ed Whitbred, Lon Jenkins, Carolyn Hayes and Mike Paris – in teamwork with Mark Tanenbaum and the folks at P.A.C.A., were some of the hardest working and creative individuals I have ever met.

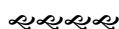
The funds raised by our art sale have helped fulfill our Vision for Shared Mission and Ministry, with special financial offerings being given to the Neighborhood Arthouse Initiative, and the Bethesda Children's Home. We were also able to offer special funds to our Synod's mission outreach. What a blessing to so many individuals!!!

Your generosity and desire to live and grow in your roles as Christ's disciples not only sustains us in our development but also allows our church community to thrive as we engage people beyond our immediate borders to come and join our multiple ministries.

So, as we step into the new year, I challenge each of you to carry this generous spirit forward. Let's continue growing in faith, love, and service, confident that we will overcome any challenges 2025 may bring, emerging stronger and united in our mission to "Share Christ's Love with Joy!"

In God's grace and love, Pastor Karen

"In him we live and have our being." -
Acts 17:28a



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Pastoral and Council Acts of 2024

New Members	Received By	Date
Bob Reid	Transfer Other	04/07/2024
Cindi Reid	Transfer Other	04/07/2024
Ann Louise Bitzer	Transfer ELCA	09/15/2024
Paul Mirone Dr.	Affirmation	12/22/2024
Andrea Saska	Confirmation	10/27/2024
Julie Saska	Confirmation	10/27/2024
Jonathon Cree	Baptism	12/19/2024

Deleted Members	Removed by	Date
Helen Kleckner	Death	03/21/2024
Donald Kleckner	Death	04/02/2024
Diane Farnsworth	Death	04/20/2024
Ruth Hinkson	Death	06/02/2024
John Wonner	Death	06/27/2024
Joyce Hersperger	Transfer ELCA	09/16/2024

Deleted Members	Removed by	Date
Kayla Baughman	Council Action	03/12/2024
Taylor Baughman	Council Action	03/12/2024
Breanna Gilson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Kayla Gilson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Meghan Gilson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Maryellen Hannold	Council Action	03/12/2024
Martha Harris	Council Action	03/12/2024
Robert Johnson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Bennett Katarzynski	Council Action	03/12/2024
Marge Katarzynski	Council Action	03/12/2024
Samantha Katarzynski	Council Action	03/12/2024
Carol King	Council Action	03/12/2024
Donald King	Council Action	03/12/2024
Chantal Krause	Council Action	03/12/2024
Beverly Kyle	Council Action	03/12/2024
Cheryl Lata	Council Action	03/12/2024
Emily Pacileo	Council Action	03/12/2024
Megan Pacileo	Council Action	03/12/2024
Jeffrey Paris	Council Action	03/12/2024
Brandon Penn	Council Action	03/12/2024
Robert Plyler	Council Action	03/12/2024
Joe Powell	Council Action	03/12/2024
Vanessa Powell	Council Action	03/12/2024
Amanda Shuster	Council Action	03/12/2024
Alison Smith	Council Action	03/12/2024
Tina Stettheimer	Council Action	03/12/2024
Michelle Velez	Council Action	03/12/2024

Funerals at AHLC		Date
Helen Kleckner	Funeral & meal	03/26/2024
Don Kleckner	Funeral & meal	04/05/2024
Diane Farnsworth	Funeral & meal	04/25/2024
Ruth Hinkson	Funeral & meal	05/14/2024
John Wonner	Funeral & meal	07/02/2024
Ed Randall	Meal only	08/24/2024

Deleted Members	Removed by	Date
Molly Wall	Council Action	03/12/2024
Gail Wall Jr.	Council Action	03/12/2024
Andrea Watson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Dain Watson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Gary Watson	Council Action	03/12/2024
Logan West	Council Action	03/12/2024
Jeffrey West	Council Action	03/12/2024
Shelley West	Council Action	03/12/2024
Mason Shuster	Council Action	03/21/2024
Katarina Smith	Council Action	03/21/2024
Addison Gordon	Council Action	04/02/2024
Ashten Gordon	Council Action	04/02/2024
Albert Gesler III	Council Action	04/11/2024
Jason Burgert	Council Action	05/09/2024
Lindsey Burgert	Council Action	05/09/2024
Sara Burgess	Council Action	05/09/2024
MaKenna Gordon	Council Action	05/09/2024
Westin Hughes	Council Action	05/09/2024
Jessica Riggle	Council Action	05/09/2024
Theo Riggle	Council Action	05/09/2024
Richard Samec	Council Action	05/09/2024
Sarah Samec	Council Action	05/09/2024
Sophie Samec	Council Action	05/09/2024
Isabella Smith	Council Action	05/09/2024
Logan Smith	Council Action	05/09/2024
Melissa Smith	Council Action	05/09/2024
Catrina Spano	Council Action	05/09/2024
Caylen Spano	Council Action	05/09/2024
Vito Spano	Council Action	05/09/2024
Austin Teudhope	Council Action	05/09/2024
Connor Teudhope	Council Action	05/09/2024
Jesse Teudhope	Council Action	05/09/2024
Traci Teudhope	Council Action	05/09/2024
Benjamin Watson	Council Action	05/09/2024
Chris Watson	Council Action	05/25/2024

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Congregation Budget Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2024

- Meeting was called to order by Andy Saska, Council President at 10:55 am
- Opening prayer by Pastor Karen Parsh
- Recap of the topics to be covered – Budget – Nominating Committee – Representatives to Synod – Members on Audit Team
- First topic – 2 members needed to attend Synod meeting. Andy asked for volunteers from the members in attendance. Judi Pacileo and John Holmberg volunteered. A motion was made by Pastor Karen to accept Judi and John as our representatives to Synod – second by Penny Gresh – Vote taken – Motion passed.
- Next, 3 people needed to serve on the Audit team. Request for volunteers. Bonnie Cleaver – Donna Holder – Jeanne Tropper volunteered. Motion made by Penny to accept Bonnie, Donna and Jeanne to audit financial books in the first quarter of 2025. Second by Lois. Vote taken and motion passed.
- Three people needed to serve on the Nominating Team in 2025. Volunteers requested from the floor. Nancy Cuning, Bob Reid, Lon Jenkins volunteered. A motion was made by Michele to accept Nancy, Bob and Lon as the Nominating Team for 2025. Second by Penny. Vote taken and motion passed.
- There is one opening on council. Paul Mirone has approached council that he is interested. He will become a member on December 22. With that information Brian Gresh made a motion to nominate Paul Mirone to serve on council. Second by Nancy Cuning. Vote taken and motion passed.
- Budget was the next topic.
 - A. Electric is still high, even with no air conditioning. Discussion about the lights. Penelec will come and do an audit. Need to make an appointment and find a member to be there or schedule during office hours.
 - B. Staff increases for everyone except Sheryl. Sheryl spoke up and stated she does not want a raise.
 - C. Phone cost is high. It is a law that the elevator must have a land line in it.
 - D. Water bill is based on the size of the meter that the building has.
 - E. Ed Whitbred has stepped down from coordinating Lunch and Listen. Hoping a member will step in and oversee this outreach program.
 - F. Budget for 2025 is \$137,000. 2024 was \$133,000. Right now, we have \$96,000 pledged for 2025.
 - G. A thank you from Lon Jenkins to the Financial team for all their work to prepare the budget.
 - H. A motion was made by Bob Reid to accept the budget as presented. Second by Penny. Vote was taken and motion was passed.
- At 11:22 am Penny G. made a motion to adjourn – Second by Michele R. Vote was taken, and meeting was adjourned.

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Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes February 18, 2024

Meeting was opened at 10:55 am with prayer by Pastor Karen Parsh.

President Andy Saska greeted the members in attendance. He did a quick recap of the most recent council meeting. Highlighted the upcoming Easter Flock, emphasizing that volunteers are needed. Some of the highlights will be a Magician, animals from the Erie Zoo, Puppeteers and much more. The paintings from Milton Sontheimer are being cleaned, categorized and now working with Bob Hagle to help with appraisals and best way to display and advertise.

RECAP OF REPORTS

- Pastor's Report – Pastor expressed her thanks for the support of the congregation during her personal struggles. The recent vacation was life saver and her relationship with the congregation part of her strength.
- Council Report – We welcome 2 new members. Reminder that the council meets once a month on the second Tuesday at 6:30 and all suggestions are welcome.
- Altar Care – Thank you from the congregation for always having the church so beautifully decorated.
- Care Committee – sending cards to members in need. Visiting in person homebound or in nursing homes.
- Christian Ed – Bible study will resume February 25. VBS plans to start after Easter Fest.
- Evangelism – From beverages to our local police force, to Facebook, our sign, Lunch and Listen, Easter Flock and Pumpkin Fest. We are all involved.
- Finance – We are holding our own. Money was recently transferred from the Investment account to meet current bills. Goal is to replace as soon as possible.
- Hospitality – Very busy year. Hosted a luncheon for Bishop Lozano, Ladies Tea, Sloppy Joe dinner at Holy Trinity and more.
- Kearsarge Food Pantry – Good year – Many volunteers and many thanks to Abiding Hope for all the support with food and monetary donations.
- Little Library – Movement is up – Books are being exchanged, and each have a label with Abiding Hope information and a bookmark. Little cups of cereal popular.
- Ministry Team – Very active. Meets every Tuesday at 10:30 am. New members are welcome.
- Mission – Supporting Bethany Outreach and Chosen.
- Painting Committee – Working tirelessly to get prepared for a show in the fall.
- Prayer Warriors – People praying from home and submitting requests for prayers, Faithful that prayers are being heard.
- Property – Help is needed on this committee. Backflow being tested this week. Landscaping bids. Dead trees were removed and T.V. added downstairs to benefit many events.
- Stewardship – No comments
- Thrivent – If you are a member, please remember to use Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- ELCA – Monthly Ladies Night Out – Inspired monthly Men's Night Out
- Worship and Music – We are Blessed with wonderful, moving, spiritual music each week
- Treasurer's Report and Income – No comments.

Floor was opened to comment

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- Looking forward to 2024
- Core volunteers are doing a wonderful job
- Andy is our life-time council president
- Tuesday group – Pastor's ideas and group ideas come to life
- Nancy Cunning goes above and beyond – holds many areas of the church together
- Denise staying? Needs to expand her knowledge. Her pay is for 15 hours per week
- Many thanks to Carolyn for doing all the planning for meals and events
- Sincere thanks to Lon for all the beautiful decorations, altar care and updates

A motion was made at 11:25 for the meeting to adjourn by Penny – Second by Nancy – Vote was taken, and meeting was adjourned.



End of the Year Council Recap

When people hear the word "Council", a look of fear and too much commitment of time shows in their face. Abiding Hope Council is Blessed that you have elected us to serve all of you and our mission as a congregation. This year has flown by, with many outreach activities, combining our Love of God and his word with other congregations, welcoming new members and so much more.

- Staff reviews for Denise and Kayla were done. Open communication, transfer of tasks and purchase of new items so jobs could be done better.
 - Focus on the importance of Committees. Responsibility that a council member serves on a committee and congregation involvement and commitment. Still needs work to make this happen.
 - Found a new Landscape/snowplow company at a better price
 - Each month Cindy provided a comparison giving sheet to help guide us on spending
 - Initiated using Canva design program at a cost of \$15.00/month
 - Updating of active members was done, so records and reporting to Synod were more accurate
 - Hosted Easter Flock and Pumpkin Fest with the help of New Hope Presbyterian
 - Parking lot reseal was quoted. Council did not approve due to lack of funds.
 - Sale of donated Sontheimer paintings was transferred to PACA
 - Town Hall meetings moved to once a quarter if needed
 - Thanks to Dave Cunning for taking down the trees by the sign
 - Organ finally removed from Lon Jenkins' home
 - Money had to be transferred from the Mission Investment Fund and fortunately returned when finances allowed
 - Sound system campaign to cover the cost was a success
 - Outside sign and parking lights repaired. Thankfully some of the repairs were under warranty
 - 10% of profit from paintings went to Synod, 3% to Inner City Art House and 3% to Bethesda
- Money from the Rummage Sale helped Food Pantry to purchase new refrigerator and freezer.

Respectfully submitted, Analee Cree Council Secretary

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Abiding Hope Committee and Project Reports

Note to AHLC membership: Abiding Hope's committees need new members. These committees are the cornerstones of any congregation, and the strength of the congregation depends on commitment from all members. Involvement increases your faith and bond to this family called Abiding Hope. Each person is valued and treasured. Please take time to share your talents and the light of Christ in your life with us.



Altar Committee 2024

As a direct extension of pastoral ministry, the Altar Committee works largely behind the scenes ensuring the altar and sanctuary are clean and ready for worship. Each week, before services, the altar is set in preparation for Holy Communion and worship. Wine is poured into the flagon, gluten-free bread (supplied by Connie Kerr Vogt) is removed from the freezer and placed on the paten, communion trays are re-filled with cups and grape juice. The altar is set, candles are filled with liquid wax and, as the seasons change the narthex banner is changed as well as altar cloths to reflect the color of the current season. Periodically the pew racks are restocked with sharpened pencils (thank you Emily Miller) and pew envelopes. Pre-consecrated communion sets are available for anyone who prefers. Wine, grape juice, candles and other supplies are purchased as needed by this committee.

In prior years, the Altar Care Team members committed to one month a year to preparing the altar for Holy Communion, clearing the altar after each service, checking the liquid wax level in the candles, changing seasonal paraments and renewing the holy water. Since the pandemic, this service has been performed predominately by Analee Cree, Mary Randall, and Nancy Cunning. Special thanks to those of you who have served God and our congregation on this committee in the past. If you are interested in serving in 2025, please make either Analee or Nancy aware of your desire to help in this ministry.



Care Team Report 2024

The Care Team's primary mission is to provide personal contact and Holy Communion to our congregation's homebound members and friends each month. Greeting cards are also mailed to members and families acknowledging events such as illness, accident, hospitalization, death, etc., as well as to celebrate life's wonderful surprises and blessings! All Abiding Hope members can help with this by letting the team know of anyone who would benefit from receiving cards or a visit AND a *special thank you* to those of you who have crafted such beautiful hand-made cards for us to send. Additionally, phone contact is maintained with these folks to better build relationships.

In July 2024, nine members were trained by Pastor Karen Parsh, and these folks were then assigned to twenty-six of our members to let them know that they are loved, prayed for and actively, constantly connected to the body of Christ.

The Team: Pastor Karen Parsh, Barb Ruhlman, Carol Whitbred, Connie Kerr Vogt, Damian Santabene, Diana Stoker, Judi Pacileo, Priscila Mirone, and John and Jacque Holmberg

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Christian Education 2024

Although we have few children/teens/college students in our church, Abiding Hope has contributed much to the young people of our community through several initiatives.

Two of our church's Elementary aged children participated in our church's 2024 Palm Sunday procession this spring, followed by their presentation of "Jesus Loves Me" taught to the congregation, which was enthusiastically received. After the presentation, the children participated in a related Palm Sunday/Easter Bible lesson, craft, activities and games, rejoining their families at communion.

For both the Easter and Christmas season, the children were involved in 'church community service' creating bags of 'snacks' representative of the Easter and Christmas story, offered to each attendee at church prior to Christmas and Easter services.

Easter Flock (Theme: God is Love) and Pumpkin Fest (Theme: Blessing of the Animals) were free offerings to the families of our community in March and October, with an enthusiastic group of children in attendance. New Hope Presbyterian partnered with Abiding Hope for both events; St. Paul Lutheran partnered for Easter Flock. Lon Jenkins organized and led the committees for both events with the assistance of Nancy Cunning, Analee Cree, Connie Kerr Vogt and countless valued volunteers. The events featured crafts, games, basket raffles, food trucks, face painting, animal balloons, therapy dogs, pumpkin decorating, egg decorating, a magician, Cody's Wheels of Hope, and special programs. Dr Steve Ropski presented a program regarding bats and the Erie Humane Society demonstrated pet care at Pumpkin Fest. Both events were well attended and much appreciation from the community was received.

In 2024, the adults of the congregation were also engaged in the study of the Gospel of Mark. Pastor guided the Sunday Bible Study group through the first 11 chapters of in-depth studies as Jesus is presented through the "ears" of Mark. Although Mark never knew Jesus, he was an assistant to Peter on his travels/preaching after Christ's death, and he wrote all that Peter experienced and spoke regarding Jesus while he traveled to spread the good news of His life, death and resurrection. The Bible Study group still has 5 intense chapters remaining to study together in 2025! Respectfully submitted by Connie Kerr Vogt



Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met in November to prepare a 2025 budget to present to the church council. Serious consideration and deliberation on how to reduce some items to keep the budget increase within reason. The proposal was approved by council at a special meeting on November 24th for presentation to the congregation at the December Congregational meeting. The final budget was adopted at the December Congregational meeting.

Members present: Pastor Karen Parsh, Judi Pacileo, Analee Cree, Michele Rion, and Cindy Filson.

An Audit Committee, consisting of Jeanne Tropper, Donna Holder and Bonnie Cleaver, was elected at the December 2024 Congressional meeting. The team will do a financial audit of 2024 in the first quarter of 2025. Submitted by Michele Rion-Treasure

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Hospitality Committee 2024

The Hospitality Committee had a busy year in 2024.

We provided soup and other good things for supper for all the Wednesdays in Lent, served dinners to 6 grieving families, and hosted a picnic at Presque Isle State Park. Autumn brought the confirmation celebration for Julie and Andrea Saska and refreshments for the presentation of the Milton Sontheimer painting generously donated by Paul Sontheimer. The year was completed by the Ladies Night Out Christmas Party. Snacks were also provided for all the Lunch & Listen events during the year.

As is said every year, this is the best team ever. We wish to thank all the people that contributed their time, talents, food and other contributions in the past year. We couldn't have done all this without all of you. May God bless you and keep all of you.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Hayes Hospitality Coordinator



Kearsarge Area Food Pantry 2024

First, I would like to thank the parishioners of Abiding Hope and New Hope church for their financial and physical support at the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry. This joint ministry helps distribute food to eligible food-insecure people in our area, along with personal care items as we have them available. This is usually a couple times a year along with the food distribution. We operate usually the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month (except November and December, the 1st and 3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Thank you to all who participated to the 24 Days of Advent with food and cash donations. Also, we were lucky to raise enough money for a new commercial freezer and refrigerator. These were badly needed for some time.

Thank you to the volunteers who help set up, hand out food and clean up afterwards. Special recognition goes to Bob Hicks (picks up food from Country Fair and Bimbo Bakery and sets up tables), Carol Thomas who pays the bills, keeps records and reports to Second Harvest Food Bank and GECAC, and Cheryl and Karl Filley. Cheryl is KAFP's Assistant Director, and she orders food and keeps things moving while Karl picks up items and helps keep food out on the floor for our shoppers. Bill Overmoyer has been Director for many years - a job at which he performed admirably! He has decided to step down from the position. Kudos to Bill for a job well done.

We will have the Temple joining our team. They have sent volunteers and would like to raise money for us. We look forward to their participation.

As the new Director, my hope for this year will be to navigate around any "bumps in the road".

We can accomplish this with our team members and the support and blessings of Abiding Hope and New Hope and the Temple. Thank you and thank you from our approximately 60 families!

Submitted by Rich Filson (814 460-8229 – richfilson52@gmail.com)



Abiding Hope 2024 Annual Report

2024 Financial Report ~ Kearsarge Area Food Pantry

Balance in checking 12/32/23		\$	3,986.66
Balance in checking 12/32/24		\$	2,951.12
Income	Abiding Hope	\$	2,319.67
	New Hope	\$	5,167.00
	Crop Walk	\$	500.00
	Erie Give Day	\$	1,025.71
<hr/>			
Total Income 2024		\$	9,012.38
Expenses	SAFB	\$	1,249.09
	Lake Erie Trucking	\$	805.00
	Dollar Tree	\$	2,407.51
	Giant Eagle gift cards	\$	700.00
	Freezer and refrigerator	\$	4,805.00
	Miscellaneous	\$	121.32
<hr/>			
		\$	10,087.92

On average, KAFP serve 61 families, twice a month, supplying food and some household items for approximately 346 people monthly.

We have about 20 faithful volunteers serving each month.

KAFP's statistics are called into Second Harvest Food Bank at the end of every month. KAFP volunteers names and hours working are also sent to GECAC each month.

Carol Thomas KAFP Treasurer



Ministry Team 2024

This "Team" meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in Pastor's office and is open to any member who would like to join. This varied group of members continues to support Pastor Karen (remember she is part-time) as well as the congregation of Abiding Hope. About 10 members on average and our secretary, Denise, meet to discuss and brainstorm some of the following topics. Ideas for Lunch & Listen (looking for a member to Head this valuable outreach) - Review of shut-ins and their needs - Easter Flock and Pumpkin Fest - What needs to be put on our monthly calendar - Is our Facebook - Sign - Website up to date - Prayer List and most important the needs in our congregation. Not only has this group grown to involve more of the congregation, but they have also reached out to form worship and friendship bonds with New Hope Presbyterian, The Temple and most recently Our Lady of Peace, by helping to support the upcoming "His Shining Light" dance next month.

Thanks to the ideas from this group, we continue to outreach to our community inside and outside of our doors. The Little Library is growing, Prayer Shawls has started again and there is attendance at Ladies Night Out by ladies outside of our congregation. This

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group has been very active in planning events and bringing things to the attention of council that needs to be addressed. There is always room for more and all ideas are welcomed. They are respected, discussed and many have been put into action.

Respectfully submitted by: Analee Cree - Team Member



Prayer Shawl Gathering 2024

In 2024 Jeanne Tropper elected to reopen Prayer Shawl Gatherings for the members and non- members as well. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month in the Conference Room from 10 to 12noon. A group of ladies meet for prayer, good conversation, knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer squares, and lap robes for the homebound. Members are invited to start a new project or complete a piece you've started, but not quite finished. Experience not necessary, yarn and instruction available to all.

The purpose of this ministry has been to present a tangible example of prayers and faith. These lap robes, shawls and blankets are gifts of healing or celebration and presented to those within our congregation, relatives, friends and those in need.

We are grateful to those who continue to make the shawls on their own and donate them to the Ministry.

Submitted by Jeanne H. Tropper



Property Report 2024

Maintenance and improvements were made to our building and grounds during 2024 and are as follows:

- Cross Schultz LLC Grounds Management was hired to do our snowplowing and sidewalk shoveling in winter as well as our spring and fall lawn clean up and summer mowing.
- The lighting in the electronic sign was repaired, with some parts under warranty.
- Exterior lighting in both parking areas was fixed or replaced with some of the replacement parts under warranty.
- The hot water tank plumbing lines needed emergency repair, due to a leaking gas connection. Funds for the parking lot lights, the electronic sign and the hot water tank gas line repair were taken from the building emergency fund. A member donated \$1,000 towards the hot water tank issue.
- Fullerton was called to check our kitchen stove and determined that it has a bad sensor that will be replace.
- The larger gooseneck faucet in the kitchen was replaced.
- New refrigerators were purchased with funds from New Hope and our Rummage sale that will assist in keeping electric costs down.

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- During 2024 the building was utilized by the community by offering free community events such as the Gem City Concert, the Easter Flock, and Pumpkin Fest and Lunch & Listen Speaker Series events. Our building is also used by several non-profits as well as the Kearsarge Food Pantry. Events such as this raise awareness of our church and witness to Christ's love within our community.
- Our elevator and fire extinguishers were regularly inspected and updated.
- Our Little Free Library and Food Pantry continues to allow youth and adults free reading materials and non-perishable food items to those in need. Connie Kerr Vogt continues to keep the Free Library stocked with donations of books and food donated from our AH family. See report on page 19.
- A wall mounted television was purchased and installed in the Fellowship Hall to be used for Lunch & Listen speakers, for in-house showing of movies and videos such as *The Chosen* which began Sunday viewing after church last fall.
- Dead bushes from the front of the building were removed and donated geraniums were planted.
- The Little Library building was repaired to handle our inclement weather.

Special thank you to Kayla and Emily Miller for all their efforts to keep our building clean and to all volunteers who help to keep our building and grounds clean and in good condition.



Outreach Programs

Below are reports of just some of Abiding Hope's many Outreach/ Mission programs.

Pumpkin Fest and Easter Flock are included in Christian Education's Report. Other programs that are important to the outreach and internal member education are:

- the narthex electronic bulletin board, which was promised in last year's report, is seen primarily by our congregation, having it on during various events showcases the variety of activities we offer and updated regularly by Ed Whitbred and Lon Jenkins.
- the AH website, updated by Nancy Cunning
- the W Grandview sign, previously updated by Penny Gresh and now managed by Office Assistant, Denise Miller
- the monthly newsletter and calendar, graphic advertisements promoting our programs and events on Facebook, the website and through emails to the members, attenders and those outside our doors
- Gem City Concert, Rummage Sale, Crop Walk, Sloppy Joe supper at Holy Trinity and other events not mentioned in this section, are examples of other ongoing outreach.



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Bethany

2024 was another year of outstanding support for these two non-profit organizations. Bethany was in the old Bethany Lutheran Church on East 10th Street. They relocated in 2024 to 204-A West 11th Street. This organization services inner city family needs at no cost. They have a Food Pantry on Wednesday and Clothes Closet on Tuesday and Wednesday. They service over 400 families through the Food Pantry and over 2,000 visits to the Clothes Closet. All items are no cost. All the clothing and household items that members have donated have been well received and appreciated.

There have been many trips made to deliver these gently used items, with comments like "Oh this will be gone tomorrow." Have a used car seat still in good condition, they will take it. No longer using a crib, toys, frying pan, dishes; all these items can be donated.

This year for the Ladies Christmas party, we reached out and asked what they needed. Abiding Hope also donated 2 raffle baskets for their fund raiser, thanks to the Ministry Team. So, when you are spring cleaning, or just wondering why I am keeping this, think Bethany. They also welcome cash donations and told me paper products are always needed. Analee Cree



Chosen

Chosen is located at 3638 West 26th Street and is a non-profit Healthcare Ministry. Started over 55 years ago they have aided over half the globe. They have done over 70 Mission Trips in various countries around the world. One of our founding members, Ruth Hinkson, was very involved and volunteered there for many years. We have been collecting gently used shoes for many years, Thank You! They are sent to countries where needed and available for residents seeking footwear.

Did you know that they also take gently used medical equipment? Not only will they take these items, but you can also go there to see if they have an item you need. If possible, they appreciate a donation yet not required. So, what do you do with those crutches, raised toilet seat, shower chair and other medical items? Donate them to Chosen. You can drop off items at their location anytime. They have a team that checks them out, does any repairs and remember they are available for anyone in need. Looking for a place to volunteer? Checkout their website for more information. Analee Cree



Bethesda Giving Tree Mission Project

Once again, AHLC participated in giving Christmas gifts to 175 youth at Bethesda Lutheran Services in Meadville, many of whom have never experienced a traditional family Christmas. We donated gifts of clothing, toys, sporting goods, crafts, toiletries and gift cards to youth from infants in the Right Start program to young adults in need both on campus and off campus. Once delivered and sorted the gifts were distributed to non-resident youth at the annual Christmas party and to resident girls on Christmas day.

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Thank you, Abiding Hope, for so generously giving to others in need. Nancy Cunning



The Little Free Library

There has been an enthusiastic response to the Little Free Library/Pantry since it was installed last November! After an initial "incident of mischief" which was positively resolved, a monitoring camera was installed to discourage any further problems and has served means to monitor its usage. The library has regular visitors—some enjoying the exchange of books, some in need of pantry items. Many visitors (not connected to Abiding Hope) replenish books and pantry items on a regular basis. The camera 'tells the story of the library/pantry—these heartwarming stories are shared via the monthly church newsletters and confirm that God has blessed this outreach initiative for our community, confirming there are needs in this part of Millcreek that are being met through its' presence.

The library is physically monitored several times a week and regularly re-supplied. Every book in the library has an Abiding Hope bookplate and a bookmark is tucked inside that includes a Bible verse or positive affirmation as well as access to the church website and information.

Dave Cunning, who constructed the library, has completed some maintenance this past fall to keep it looking beautiful. Penny Gresh and Denise Miller have been including information on the church digital sign, which has resulted in even more visitors! Kayla Miller has offered much of her time to monitor the library/pantry in my absence. A special space for pantry donations and bookmarks has been established in the Heritage Room to keep supplies organized by John and Jacque Holmberg. Our congregation has been incredibly supportive and generous with their donations, all of which are GREATLY appreciated!

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kerr Vogt



Lunch & Listen - An Experiment in Evangelism

This program grew out of a conversation about how we bring potential new members into our building. After almost two full seasons, it is time to look at the pluses and minuses of this adventure.

Pluses: More often than not, we have attracted acceptable attendance for a new venture. Despite occasional disappointments, attendance averaged somewhere north of 25 with occasional groups near capacity.

A significant percentage of this group were non-members.

We have presented an eclectic range of speakers, chosen for their topic, rather than their cause.

We have had, among others, a neighborhood Rabbi, a noted Muslim scholar, a former Catholic priest, [now a Lutheran pastor], a jeweler, a cold case police officer, an African immigrant who is a magnificent tailor and a button collector who was one of

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our most popular guests.

Minuses: Like most church programs, it is run by a small but incredibly hard-working group. In order to make this successful, there is a process as follows: commit speakers to a date, communicate to them, write up description and forward to Nancy Cunning to become 2 different posters, post on a variety of public calendars and distribute wherever possible, post online and internal

communication, set up the sound system [heavy and awkward], [council has been wonderful in setting up tables the evening before], set up and provide coffee and desserts, [Carolyn, Analee, Nancy and others], connect the TV to laptop, [always an adventure]. From beginning to end is about six weeks which means starting the next event two weeks before the current one.

In conclusion, if we are to continue this program, it needs to be a little more formal structure rather than the ad hoc approach. Either way it's been a lot of fun.

Yours in Christ, Ed Whitbred



Prayer Warriors

Prayer Warriors continue to faithfully meet every third Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the church sanctuary for intercessory prayer.

A welcomed few have joined us on occasion, and we are aware there are members praying with us from home. We believe God honors intercessory prayer and are committed to it and its powerful impact on the needs within our church and its members, community, nation and the world.

The addition of The Prayer Box in The Little Free Library has expanded the Prayer Warriors' opportunity to pray for the needs of our surrounding community. One story is of homeless middle-aged woman who visited our Library several times each week since spring, requesting prayer for a home—her prayer was answered in October, and she is now blessed with a home of her own. In her contacts with Pastor and Prayer Warriors, she gives all the glory to God through the prayers of our church.

This response to intercessory prayer commitment prompted the inclusion of prayer requests via The Little Free Library in our weekly services. Who knows what other prayers may have been answered due to our humble efforts?

The sanctuary continues to be open the third Wednesday of every month between 1:00-3:00 for this mission. We continue to encourage our congregation to pray with us on these days for whatever time they can offer.

Respectfully submitted by Jerry Vogt and Connie Kerr Vogt



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The Milton Sontheimer Painting Project 2024

Milton Sontheimer had spent his adult years as an artist studying the famous works of Claude Monet, with time spent in France. After Milton's death the paintings became the property of son Paul. In 2023 Paul gave Abiding Hope a marvelous gift of over 200 of his father's oil paintings.



A Painting Committee was formed and, after some deliberation, AH elected to have P.A.C.A., and auctioneer Mark Tanenbaum hold a month's long art exhibit and silent auction. The auction/exhibit ended in September with all but 22 of the paintings being sold. In addition to AH benefiting from this sale, with Abiding Hope depositing \$8,348 into the Mission Investment Fund with a percentage going to the NWPA Synod, \$600 was donated to Bethesda Lutheran Services and the Neighborhood Art House. If you are interested in purchasing one of the remaining Sontheimer original paintings, contact a Painting Committee member.

November 24, 2024, was declared Sontheimer Sunday. With a special Sunday service, dedication and reception following, the above painting, *Les Arbres de Bruges*, was unveiled and Abiding Hope honored Milton, Mary and Paul for their gifts of Art and Music.

God was present at this lovely moving service. A special Thank you to the Painting Committee who worked so diligently on this year long project: Lon Jenkins, Mike Paris, Carolyn Hayes, Ed Whitbred, Analee Cree, John Holmberg, and Barb Ruhlman.



Stewardship Report

Our Stewardship program was based on the reality that God's promises are at the core of the witness of Scripture. As we studied the stories of Moses in the Wilderness, we recalled the promises of a God who upends our expectations of economics and of each other. This ancient story speaks of the importance of our sharing time, treasure and talent to experience the blessings of God's goodness.

The entire 5-week series is best summed up by the 16th century Saint, Teresa of Avila, who wrote of the critical importance of wise Stewardship:

"Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world . . . Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Please consider becoming a part of this important committee. Stewardship is an important focus that requires a year-round emphasis. Please consider helping in this effort and contact Pastor Karen or any council member for additional information.



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2024 Annual Report of Thrivent Financial

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church has received money from the *Thrivent Choice Dollars®* program since its inception. (Amounts may be found in the annual Financial Secretary's reports.) Thank you to the Thrivent Financial members who directed their portion to Abiding Hope. This money was used to meet the general operating expenses. If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you may still have 2024 Choice Dollars® available which may be directed through March 31, 2025. Just call 1- 800-THRIVENT, or your Thrivent financial advisor to ask about this.

Action Teams are Thrivent's way of helping fraternal members support the causes they are passionate about and to strengthen the local communities through fundraisers, educational events, or service activities. If you are eligible for this benefit – **please do not let it go unused!** If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, please identify yourself to John or Jacque Holmberg. Even though Thrivent no longer has named congregational coordinators, we could help you brainstorm your ideas and begin your application process.

In 2024 Thrivent Action Team funds were used for several projects, including these: the collection of school supplies for local students, a full "Sloppy Joe Dinner" for homeless/transient folks, and for supplies for our annual Pumpkin Fest. If you sponsored an Action Team project in 2024, please let John and Jacque know.

Thank you to the many volunteers who worked on these projects - AND to the many participants!

If you have any questions about Thrivent Financial, just contact one of our local Thrivent financial representatives, Vince Kremer or Terry Hokaj.

Jacque Holmberg



Women of the ELCA (W/ELCA) & Ladies Night Out! Report 2024

All women of the congregation and their friends are already a part of this church women's fellowship. You qualify! You are a woman, and you are connected to the ELCA.

It is good to get together to deepen our friendships - to console each other when needed and to share some great BIG laughs. In 2024, we enjoyed meals together at Bullfrog, Toreros, Oakwood, Colony, Riverside, Venango Valley Inn, Oasis, Syd's, and at Abiding Hope for our Annual Christmas Party! A huge thank you to the ladies who prepare for that special event. Attendance varies from about 14-24 ladies. (Meals are all "Dutch-treat" and *NO agenda!*)

Ladies of the church are always invited to participate in women's events at the synodical and conference levels for meetings and retreats- a Camp Lutherlyn retreat and annual convention at Olmsted Manor.

Jacque Holmberg

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Women of the ELCA: Our Purpose Statement

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”



2024 Worship & Music Committee Report

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for planning and providing a variety of worship and liturgical settings, musical offerings, altar care, decorations and worship leaders.

Abiding Hope's Choir combined with St. Paul Lutheran and New Hope Presbyterian Churches in our sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday service, with a joint choir providing a beautiful anthem. On Wednesday evenings during Lent and on Good Friday, the congregations and choirs combined for soup suppers at Abiding Hope followed by meaningful worship services and inspirational music.

Special music throughout the year was offered by various members of the congregation and family and friends of the church during the summer months while the choir was on hiatus. We thank Howard Lyon and Paul Sontheimer for providing violin and cello solos and duets, trios and keyboard duets with Sheryl on the 2nd Sundays of the month, and Brian Gresh and Paul Mirone for faithfully accompanying weekly services on the guitar. This year we also welcomed Cindi Reid on clarinet, and as always, we thank Pastor Karen for providing beautiful weekly accompaniment!

In June, we began using the Gate of Heaven Mass setting for our music liturgy, which was graciously offered to us by OLP Music Director Brian Kuzmin and very well received by Abiding Hope! Also in June, we offered an old fashioned “Hymn Sing” and sang many of the congregation's favorites, followed by an Ice Cream Social in the Fellowship Hall.

During July, several of OLP's musicians joined us to accompany the liturgy and added another dimension to our service! We were fortunate to have Kayla Miller sing a beautiful solo, followed a week later by returning guest musicians Kris and Laura Barnes, Sally and Matt Zill's family, who provided inspirational piano and vocal music.

August featured special music by Janet Getson, Cindi Ried and Howard Lyon, before the Choir's return in September. We hosted another “Hymn Fest” in November featuring the fall festival music of Reformation, All Saints and Christ the King Sundays, and we even sang a few secular fall favorites as well! Fall goodies were provided afterward in Fellowship Hall. A combined Thanksgiving service was held at New Hope Presbyterian Church, where Pastor Karen preached the sermon.

We began the Advent season by trying some new Advent music, which seemed to be well received. This year's 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service featured a short concert of seasonal

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music prior to the service with vocal solos by Janet Getson, flute and violin music by Pastor Karen and Howard Lyon, and anthems by our Abiding Hope choir. We hope this led everyone into a beautiful, contemplative and uplifting worship experience, ending in the traditional candle lighting during the singing of "Silent Night." The following Sunday we ended December with a Service of Lessons and Carols.

The Worship Committee would like to thank Lon Jenkins and Nancy Cunning, who have added their extraordinary creativity to make our church look welcoming and beautiful, with something new to marvel at every season! Thank you to those who faithfully set the altar each week for Communion and to those who clean up each week after worship. A special thank you to Analee Cree who provides weekly coffee and refreshments in the narthex, and to Carolyn Hayes and her faithful volunteers who prepare delicious refreshments and meals for special events whenever asked in the Fellowship Hall!

The music department wishes to thank Pastor Karen, Church Council and the Abiding Hope family for their ongoing, enthusiastic support of the choir and musicians of Abiding Hope. It is what inspires us to continue to strive to provide quality musical offerings for each worship service.

As our church continues to grow, we also encourage more people to sing in the choir, especially as several of our choir members "fly south" for the winter months and/or travel often and continue to recover from illness. Please consider becoming a part of our music ministry team in 2025! The ability to read music is not necessary - just the desire to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Williams ~ Coordinator of Music

AHLC 2024 Financial Reports & 2025 Budget

	Jan - Dec 24	2024 Budget	Difference	2025 Budget
Expense				
6000 · BUDGETED MISSION GIVING				
6010 · Mission Support /Benevolence	4,257.00	4,050.00	207.00	4,210.00
6011 · Charitable Gifts/Fire Dept.	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
6025 · Kearsarge Area Food Pantry	944.00	300.00	644.00	880.00
6027 · Missionary Support	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Total 6000 · BUDGETED MISSION GIVING	5,901.00	5,050.00	851.00	5,790.00
6100 · LEARNING MINISTRY				
6110 · Confirmation Camp	0.00	200.00	-200.00	200.00
6120 · Christian Ed Supplies	1,647.56	500.00	1,147.56	500.00
6130 · Vacation Bible School	0.00	150.00	-150.00	150.00
6140 · Youth Ministry	116.58	100.00	16.58	100.00
Total 6100 · LEARNING MINISTRY	1,764.14	950.00	814.14	950.00
6200 · CONGRGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY				

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6210 · Care Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	50.00
6230 · Health Ministry	0.00	25.00	-25.00	25.00
6240 · Hospitality	769.50	500.00	269.50	1,000.00
Total 6200 · CONGRGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY	769.50	575.00	194.50	1,075.00
6260 · OUTREACH MINISTRY				
6263 · Evangelism Committee				
6263.01 · Special Events	1,926.41	500.00	1,426.41	500.00
6263.02 Lunch & Listen				900.00
6263 · Evangelism Committee - Other	546.88	1,500.00	-953.12	1,000.00
Total 6263 · Evangelism Committee	2,473.29	2,000.00	473.29	2,400.00
6265 · How Sweet the Sound	300.00	350.00	-50.00	300.00
6267 · PR / Webpage	928.10	400.00	528.10	400.00
Total 6260 · OUTREACH MINISTRY	3,701.39	2,750.00	951.39	3,100.00
6300 · SUPPORT MINISTRY				
6310 · Offering Envelopes	289.46	275.00	14.46	275.00
6320 · Stewardship	75.00	50.00	25.00	75.00
6330 · Synod Assembly	513.00	800.00	-287.00	800.00
6340 · Erie Gives	150.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Total 6300 · SUPPORT MINISTRY	1,027.46	1,275.00	-247.54	1,300.00
6400 · WORSHIP MINISTRY				
6410 · Altar Supplies				
6410.01 · Candles	364.05	300.00	64.05	350.00
6410.02 · Wine	70.36	150.00	-79.64	100.00
6410.03 · Wafers	0.00	150.00	-150.00	100.00
6410.09 · Other	77.30	500.00	-422.70	250.00
Total 6410 · Altar Supplies		1,100.00	-588.29	800.00
6420 · Choir Supplies	0.00	200.00	-200.00	200.00
6430 · Copyrights/Bulletins	779.00	750.00	29.00	750.00
6450 · Resources/Certificates	0.00	550.00	-550.00	500.00
6460 · Worship Instruments Maintenance	455.00	650.00	-195.00	650.00
6470 · Organ Fund (accruable)	0.00	400.00	-400.00	400.00
6480 · Audio Visual	0.00	100.00	-100.00	100.00
Total 6400 · WORSHIP MINISTRY	1,234.00	2,650.00	-2,004.29	3,400.00
6500 · MAINTENANCE				
6510 · Custodial Supplies	626.71	400.00	226.71	400.00
6520 · Bldg Insurance	2,604.90	2,200.00	404.90	2,200.00
6530 · Repairs/Maintenance	1,619.30	1,000.00	619.30	1,000.00
6540 · Grounds [Snow & Lawn]	11,913.36	14,000.00	-2,086.64	12,000.00
Total 6500 · MAINTENANCE	16,764.27	17,600.00	-835.73	15,600.00
6600 · OFFICE SUPPLIES				
6610 · Computer	158.91	1,000.00	-841.09	500.00
6620 · Copier/Ink	686.15	550.00	136.15	600.00
6630 · Postage	408.00	600.00	-192.00	600.00
6640 · Office Supplies	438.13	500.00	-61.87	500.00
Total 6600 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,691.19	2,650.00	-958.81	2,200.00

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6700 · UTILITIES

6710 · City of Erie Water/Sewer	761.90	800.00	-38.10	800.00
6720 · Phone/Internet/Alarms/Elevator	4,954.44	4,500.00	454.44	4,500.00
6730 · General Exterminating	260.38	200.00	60.38	200.00
6740 · National Fuel Gas	1,132.08	1,600.00	-467.92	1,250.00
6750 · Penelec	4,787.94	4,200.00	587.94	4,200.00
6760 · Waste Disposal	<u>391.92</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>-9.08</u>	<u>400.00</u>

Total 6700 · UTILITIES 12,288.66 11,700.00 588.66 11,350.00

6800 · SALARIES & COMPENSATION

6810 · Compensation & Stipends

6814 · Supply Pastors	375.00	750.00	-375.00	500.00
6815 · Workers Comp Ins	457.00	500.00	-43.00	500.00
6817 · direct deposit fees	388.00	192.00	196.00	384.00
6819 · Accountant	<u>910.82</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>10.82</u>	<u>950.00</u>

Total 6810 · Compensation & Stipends 2,130.82 2,342.00 -211.18 2,334.00

6820 · Pastor Compensation

6821 · Salary & Housing	29,039.00	29,039.00	0.00	34,882.00
6823 · Pastor FICA	2,210.00	2,210.00	0.00	2,668.00
6825 · Pension & Healthcare	<u>12,416.00</u>	<u>12,416.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>12,416.00</u>

Total 6820 · Pastor Compensation 43,665.00 43,665.00 0.00 49,966.00

6830 · Pastor Reimbursements

6831 · Cont. Ed /Book Allowance	1,154.91	1,000.00	154.91	1,000.00
6833 · Auto Reimbursement	<u>4,811.56</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,311.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>

Total 6830 · Pastor Reimbursements 5,966.47 3,500.00 2,466.47 2,000.00

6840 · Custodian

6841 · Custodian Salary	4,272.00	4,272.00	0.00	4,357.44
6843 · Custodian FICA	<u>327.00</u>	<u>327.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>333.34</u>

Total 6840 · Custodian 4,599.00 4,599.00 0.00 4,690.78

6850 · Coordinator of Music I

6851 · Music 1 Salary	21,090.00	21,090.00	0.00	21,090.00
6853 · Music I FICA	<u>1,613.00</u>	<u>1,613.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,613.00</u>

Total 6850 · Coordinator of Music I 22,703.00 22,703.00 0.00 22,703.00

6860 · Substitute & Special Musicians

6861 · Sub & Spec Music Compensation	<u>675.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>75.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
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Total 6860 · Substitute & Special Musicians 675.00 600.00 75.00 600.00

6870 · Office Assistant

6871 · Off. Asst. Salary	9,527.00	9,527.00	0.00	9,717.54
6873 · Off. Asst. FICA	<u>729.00</u>	<u>729.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>743.49</u>

Total 6870 · Office Assistant 10,256.00 10,256.00 0.00 10,461.03

6800 · SALARIES & COMPENSATION - Other

	<u>0.00</u>			
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Total 6800 · SALARIES & COMPENSATION 89,995.29 87,665.00 2,330.29 92,754.81

Total Expense 135,648.61 133,965.00 1,683.61 370,994.43

Abiding Hope 2024 Annual Report

Account Summaries (from monthly Bank Statements)

Current Account		
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$7,167.44
	Deposits	\$14,293.00
	Erie Gives Day	
	Checks and other Debits	\$18,682.04
30-Dec	Bank Balance	\$2,778.40
	Total Uncleared Transactions	\$179.74
	Uncleared Deposits	\$0.00
30-Dec	Actual Balance	\$2,598.66

Building Emergency Fund		
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$6,277.79
	Deposits	\$260.00
	Checks and other Debits	\$2,422.50
	Ending Balance	\$4,115.29
30-Dec	Total Uncleared Transactions	\$0.00
	Uncleared Deposits	\$0.00
30-Dec	Actual Balance	\$4,115.29

Memorial Savings Account		
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$7,404.40
	Deposits	\$1,000.00
	Withdrawals	\$3,450.00
	Interest Earned	\$0.04
30-Dec	Ending Balance	\$4,954.44

Mission Investment Fund		
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$33,539.98
	Deposits	\$5,000.00
	Withdrawals	
	Interest Earned	\$18.26
30-Dec	Ending Balance	\$38,558.24

Submitted by: Michele Rion-Treasurer

Abiding Hope 2024 Annual Report

2024 INCOME REPORT

BUDGETED	2021	2022	2023	2024	INCOME FROM 2021, 2022 & 2023 INCLUDED FOR COMPARISON
Current	\$101,749	95,027	108,281	116,536	
Mission	3164	3961	4712	3800	
Loose Offerings	277	1400	1713	706	
Seasonal envs.	1970	1807	4336	1630	
Thrivent Choice	1937	982	1225	631	
Building Use	1270	1230	1915	1465	
Candles	76	109	45	37	
KAFP	300	300	300	300	see below for additional donations above the \$300.00 budgeted
Miscellaneous	15,808	223	1035	15,268	incl. How Sweet, Crop walk, Boscovs, books, classes, Easter Flock, Pump fest, etc.
2 nd Mile	80	120	5185	3715	sound system, TV for Narthex, etc
Hospitality	211	807	1131	1319	
Initial Envelopes	211	205	300	210	
Boscovs	120	135	95	50	
TOTAL	128,384	107,720	131,099	145,667	
UNBUDGETED					
Building Emer	2083	2025	3105	2955	
Memorials	570	695	1180	5200	
Flowers	470	1175	825	1007	
KAFP (exceeding \$300 budgeted)	511	583	1920	1222	(does not include checks made out to KAFP directly)
5 th Sunday					
World Hunger	295	285	355	69	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	805	185	50	50	Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Filson, Financial Secretary