May 2025 Life Together Newsletter





A Message from Pastor Karen

Parenting – the toughest job you will ever love

I smile, now, at this excerpt I wrote just after the birth of Ben, our first grandson – 12 years ago...It (along with the birth of his brother, Sam) was a moment in which I felt particularly close to God. Parenting seems to unleash that sense of wonder in all of us – filling our souls with the miracle of God's creative design and eternal love for his beloved world.

This is what I wrote...

- ... To my precious son and daughter-in-law... Thank you for sharing this wondrous miracle with your dad and I, and welcome to the hardest job you will ever love!
- For the next 18 years, you will learn to artfully dodge piles of dirty laundry and overloaded dishwashers... along with mountains of toys and assorted kid debris that periodically acquires the impact of a tidal wave. Your sleep will be disturbed by teething and runny noses and late-night teenage catastrophes. Your patience will be tried, and your bank account will be stretched. And, if you think you have already completed school, think again. You will be reintroduced to homework and assorted academic and athletic demands that will challenge EVERYTHING you thought you knew.
- Just when you think you have a grip on your parenting skills, he will bring even more complex situations. But don't worry...Those of us with grey hair and years of experience, will tell you that you are never alone. Family and friends will rally around you and God most certainly will place his hands on your shoulders even when you think he has abandoned you.
- Like it or not, priorities will change. The cycle of life includes a wide variety of unimaginable joys along with heavy responsibilities and heartbreaks that will disturb the comfortable predictability of your life. Through it all, make love be your gold standard and allow God to work in you and through you. When you least expect it, he WILL speak to you with words of encouragement and deepest compassion.

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

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Erie, PA 16506
814.868.8685
www.abidinghopeerie.org
Office email:
ahadministrator@hotmail.com

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#### Pastor Karen Parsh

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

#### **Church Hours:**

Office:
Monday & Tuesday
9:30 to 3:30;
Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

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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- One thing is for certain. From the first moment you hold your son, my grandson... You will never be the same. These coming years offer you the chance to experience the most amazing adventures. Sure, there will be plenty of deep valley pains. But they can't even begin to compare with the glory of those mountain-top views you are certain to experience. My memories of our shared delights and lifetime milestones continue to be the sources of my sense of meaning and holiness.
- Parenting you has taught me that nothing is impossible when viewed through the lens of love and faith. In the most unexpected ways, you have led me to know God as the greatest partner and inspiration in this evolving adventure we share.

One of my favorite Celtic Prayers seems especially appropriate:

"May the all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere- present Lord be with you: may He go before you to show you the way, behind you to protect you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace."

- The Lord comes to us in all life's struggles. The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, former Chaplain of the U. S. Senate writes: "Struggles are the stuff of life for most of us. Few of us ever consistently feel good about ourselves; all of us have times of insecurity and self-doubt. Anxiety is a stranger to none of us. Fears and frustrations track us like angry dogs."
- But the solid rock the one thing you can count on, is that you will never be alone. God will ALWAYS AND FOREVER accompany you wherever you are destined to travel. Our Lord promises to walk beside you to lead you, to protect you, and to bless you wherever your journey may take you.
- With love, a mother who is proud of you and knows that your son(s), Ben (and Sam), are among the luckiest guys on earth.
- To all young parents, take special delight in the child placed in your hands, and to those of us viewing parenting from a grandparent perspective, remember we still have a job to do in not only loving those who have been given to us... but in caring for all children who may find their strength and faith through your loving example.

Have a joy-filled Mother's (and Father's) Day, with all my love and God's eternal blessings...

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#### Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: The families of Ken Smith,

Christian Mueller and Donald Nordin. Also, pray for these members and friends: Jackie Seib, Darcée Anthony, Irene & Roger Owens, Dave and Pastor Karen Parsh, Tom Gage, Maury and Linda Allen, Pastor Bill Cox (Prince of Peace), Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Damian and Marcia Santabene, Esther & Donna Klakamp, Larry & Barb Ruhlman, Ron Froess, Tom Cirillo, Judy Nordin, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Don & Donna Holder, Ellie Cherpak, Judy Johnston, and Little Library requests.



Please contact Pastor Karen with prayer requests. <u>pastorparsh@gmail.com</u>, cell phone: 814-881-3266 or contact the church office: <u>ahadministrotor@hotmail.com</u> or 814-868-8685.

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Attan 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.

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# Lutherlyn CampBlast! - Saturday, May 10 - 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

FREE! RAIN OR SHINE! Campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, pony rides, zipline, bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, hayrides, games, sports, archaeology, disc golf, jump pillow, tours, great food, worship, and MORE! The best part.... EVERYTHING Lutherlyn

# No registration is needed. Just show up with all your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone else looking for a fun, free day.

Physical Address (for GPS): 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA 16001 ~ Office phone: 724-865-2161

#### The Schedule

11:00 am – Join Us for Worship at the Steininger Memorial Amphitheater

Noon - 3:00 pm - FREE Lunch served in the Dining Hall

Noon - 4:00 pm - TONS of ACTIVITIES!! (detailed schedule will be available upon arrival)

4:00 - 4:30 pm - Closing Campfire

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**Prayer Shawl Gatherings** continue at 10a-12noon for prayer, good conversation, knitting or crocheting shawls, prayer squares, or lap robes for the homebound. 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 group will meet Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month) in the Conference Room.

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## Easter Flock Raffle Baskets

When people ask me about my church Abiding Hope, I tell them, "You can't find a more loving, caring, Christian group of people anywhere. Come, join us". You proved that again with the outstanding raffle basket donations for the Easter Flock. We ended up with 30 baskets and made \$743. This money was used to cover the cost of having the Lambs, Magician, Face Painter, and Balloon animal creator and it will enable us to send donations to the Therapy Dogs and E.A.R.S. It was a glorious day!

Thank You All! Sincerely, Analee Cree

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**KAFP Report** ~ On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, KAFP served a total of 90 combined households consisting of 56 seniors, 128 adults and 126 children totaling 310 individuals. We purchased milk, carrots, bananas, juice, frozen vegetables, onions, carrots, bananas and peppers while Second Harvest provided dairy product, potatoes, celery and lettuce. Temple Anshe Hesed supplied 5 cases of individually wrapped pies from JTM. As our numbers continue to grow, you can help with your monetary or gift card donations or donate purchased food items in bulk that will be distributed. Please see the food listed on the KAFP information sheet in the narthex or **Click** here.

Midweek Lenten Service offerings designated for KAFP helped pay for much of the food purchased. We collected \$419 over the 5 Lenten luncheons. Thank you so much!

We had a lot of help from Abiding Hope, New Hope and Temple Anshe Hesed. There was an energized feeling among the workers and shoppers.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> Cindy and I went to a reception at Second Harvest for outgoing director Karen Seggi and welcoming incoming director, Greg Hall.

Rich Filson ~ KAFP

KASP Project Dignity: The KAFP continues to provide food and personal care items bimonthly to over 110 Millcreek families in need. Each month members are invited to donate personal care items for distribution the following month. Donations can be placed in the basket on the shelf in the Heritage Room. May Item ~ Shampoo.

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# Little Free Library and Pantry

With improved weather, the AH Little Free Library is experiencing increased visitors who browse the large variety of books available, carefully replace books they return or add to our collection and use the pantry. One woman comes weekly to add food to the pantry. When she appears on camera, the food is checked as soon as possible for expiration dates (so far always appropriate), and she exchanges her weekly book. I pray she arrives to meet us some Sunday morning!

Since we now have business cards, those will be available for distribution through the library as well.

With warmer weather, canned goods can now be added to the pantry for the next month. The guidelines for Little Pantries are strictly followed. Canned vegetables, fruits, pasta meals, stews, soups are all appropriate. On days when temperatures rise, the cans are removed and replaced with packaged meals. Also appreciated are meals in pouches, small containers of dry cereals, dried pastas, peanut butter and jam in plastic containers, pasta sauces in plastic containers. Your donations are GREATLY appreciated and can be placed in the containers on the Heritage Room shelf. Please check for expiration dates. Special treats are small boxes/bags of coffee and tea. A HUGE THANK YOU for your support and donations to this ministry for our neighbors!

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#### Lake Erie Still Struggles

NW PA includes approximately 75 miles of Lake Erie shoreline and tributaries. Modern day problems hinder Lake Erie from achieving its potential as a part of God's creation. Since God's creation of Lake Erie through glacial action, it has provided habitat for animals, plants, and humans. Excessive industrial development in the lake's watershed during the 19th and 20th centuries led to the National Environmental Protection Act of 1972. NEPA funding stimulated enforcement and research that led to tremendous improvements in Lake Erie waters in the last years of the 20th century. While Lake Erie has improved in many respects, threats still exist and are increasing daily. Growth in the human population near the lake, new chemicals and plastics introduced by humans, climate changes and reductions in research and protection have created a threat in the 21st century.

A Nov. 13, 2024 PA Department of Environment Protection (DEP) press release announced grants for the improvement of Lake Erie "coastal zone." These grants support Lake Erie research, protection, and restoration. The federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the source of funding for these grants. (<a href="https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/newsroom/2024-11-13-shapiro-administration-awards-funding-to-protect-lake-erie-coast.html">https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/newsroom/2024-11-13-shapiro-administration-awards-funding-to-protect-lake-erie-coast.html</a>)

An April 11,2025 report by CBS news describes vast impending budget cuts at NOAA that could have great negative consequences for Lake Erie. (<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/noaa-budget-cut-climate-research-draft-proposal/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/noaa-budget-cut-climate-research-draft-proposal/</a>) Part of the NOAA budget addresses climate change matters. Reduction in attention to climate change can only create more stress on the fragile ecosystem of Lake Erie. Planned cuts in the EPA budget and staff for air pollution research and enforcement of water regulation will threaten Lake Erie, among many other locations. (<a href="https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history">https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history</a>)

The struggles of Lake Erie continue. However, we can take comfort in knowing that protection of Lake Erie is not completely reliant on governmental research and enforcement. Individuals and small groups can take local actions to protect Lake Erie. We can reduce plastic use, waste of all sorts, pick up litter, do educational work in the community and contact government officials. Local effort cannot replace the research and work that NOAA, EPA, and other agencies support. The preservation of Lake Erie requires collaborative efforts to maintain its ecological function in creation.

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation."

Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

Like and follow us on Facebook: <u>Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church</u> in America.

Contact us at: <a href="mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com">nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com</a>

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**Exch Advocacy** ~ Every day is an opportunity to take advocacy action as part of your Christian practice. Our baptismal calling to "serve all people," following the example of Christ, has urgent meaning as our progress in addressing climate change and the healing and wholeness of God's good creation are threatened.

Subscribe: ELCA Advocacy <u>washingtonoffice@elca.org</u>

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Prayer Warriors ~ Our next meeting of Prayer Warriors will be Wednesday, May 21. The sanctuary is open from 1-3:00. We encourage all to pray with us during this time, for as long as you can, wherever you are. If you are in Senior Residences or even hospitalized or in rehab, you can have an ENORMOUS impact as you pray with us. We pray for those of our congregation, our neighborhoods, community, state, nation and world. Intercessory prayer is a time to look away from ourselves and devote ourselves to the needs of others! "First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people..." Romans 8:26

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Help us tell it in the mountains!

Go Tell it in the Mountains is a grant-funded initiative focused on revitalizing preaching and faith formation in our region; this project is a partnership of 3 Lutheran Church synods: Allegheny, Upper Susquehanna, and Northwestern PA. We want to hear from you! Based on your



responses, the project team will develop resources for preachers and congregations in our region. Please take a few minutes to complete each of these two surveys. The first is about spiritual formation needs; the second focuses on worship and preaching. Your responses to both surveys are confidential. Thank you for your help! --Pastor Jean Kuebler, Erie Conference Dean and Go Tell it in the Mountains Steering Committee member.

Below are the links for the spiritual formation survey and worship and preaching survey:

Rev. Jean N. Kuebler ~ Faith Lutheran Church 5414 E. Lake Rd. Erie, PA 16511 814-899-9653 (off) ~ 717-440-3515 (cell) faithlepastor@gmail.com www.faithlutheranerie.com





Abiding Hope receives WEECA award ~ Abiding Hope was once again chosen to receive a \$300 grant from the Women of the ELCA. 2025 NWPA WELCA Women Empowering Women Grant Program was awarded to supplement our existing Little Library which also now serves as a prayer request box and non-perishable food pantry. In addition, this grant will supplement the cost needed to provide a free summer concert to the Millcreek community. Thank you Analee Cree for applying for this grant.

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A Visual Tour of Presque Isle State Park by Brian Berchtold, Park Ambassador

Brian Berchtold is a photographer and an ambassador for Presque Isle State Park. Through his photography and talks, he shares the beauty of the park and educates about its unique geology, history, flora, and fauna. After he retired, Brian says he came out to the park and picked up a camera; it changed his life! For over 15 years, he has been giving

presentations on the peninsula and sharing images on his Facebook page, where he has over 2500 followers. This event is free and all are welcome!

A Visual Tour of Presque Isle State Park by Brian Berchtold, Park Ambassador Monday, May 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 E. Lake Rd.

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Progress continues on this project. If you have not yet reviewed and updated your contact information on the two directory clip boards in the narthex, please do so as soon as you can. Please mark OK by your name if everything is correct. This will save us from making so many follow-up phone calls. Thank you all.

Photographs will be taken before and after worship for the next few weeks. See Nancy Cunning.

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Receiving Communion during Worship

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 sear.

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Hospitality Report - On April 25th we said "Goodbye" to AH member Ken Smith with visitation. his funeral and bereavement luncheon.

We ask for donations of dinners for our homebound to continue. These dinners of soups, casseroles are delivered as needed to grieving families, and to sick or recovering members. Please label, date and put in the freezer. If you have questions, see Analee or Carolyn. Thank you for donating food from the bottom of our hearts. Providing food for our congregation is God witnessing his love in a special

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way.

Used Books will be collected from May 21 to 29 to be delivered to the Erie Library Books Sale by Rev Matt Dennison. Watch for information.

Ladies are invited to the WEXCA **Ladies Convention** at Lutherlyn on May 30 and 31. For registration forms and information Click Here ಎಎಎಎಎ

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Council Recap of April 8, 2025 Meeting

As we greet the new season of Spring, Abiding Hope council looks forward to guiding the congregation to blossom inside and outside the doors of 2402 West Grandview.

- Thank you for stepping up with extra giving to help cover the unplanned snow removal expenses
- An audit was completed on March 23 All was in order -Thank you to the members who participated
- After receiving a higher quote for landscaping for 2025 from another company, a motion was made and passed to stay with our current service.
- Lenten mid-week luncheon donations were donated to Kearsarge Food Pantry – total of \$419

Some of the items we still have on the table are switching to LED bulbs (money savings - yet costly) Adding speakers downstairs. This would enable people preparing for events in the kitchen to still hear the service. Resurfacing the parking lot. Council continues to monitor spending, while putting our mission as our priority.

Respectfully submitted: Analee Cree - Council Secretary

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Music Notes

May brings an exciting month of musical offerings! On May 4th, we celebrate the Easter Season with Traditional Worship and music, followed by Mother's Day on May 11th, when the choir will sing a special anthem celebrating the blessing of family. Choir Recognition Sunday is May 18th, and the choir has a rousing anthem planned! Later that afternoon, the Symphonic Singers will present their free Spring Concert at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary featuring various musical styles. (Our own Janet Getson is also a member!) (See page 8)

Thank you to Cindi Reid, Brian Gresh, Pastor Karen and Paul Mirone who have been accompanying weekly services whenever possible. We miss Paul and wish him a speedy recovery following his recent eye surgery!

Easter Blessings,

Sheryl Williams ~ Music Coordinator

sheryl4013@yahoo.com ~ (814) 882-2830

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May 5 & 19 – 10 to 12 noon Prayer Shawls

May 13 - Church Council

May 14 – 6:30 Men's Night Out @ O'Charley's

May 15 – 5:30 Ladies Night Out at Venango Valley Inn

May 18 - Choir Appreciation
Day

May 18~3 PM Symphonic Singers

May 18 – Deadline to order geraniums for Pentecost

May 20 - Primary Elections Day

May 21-29 Collecting used books for Erie Library Used Book Sale

May 22 - 6:30 pm: Erie
Conference meets at
AHLC for Erie Conf. Synod
Assembly voting members

May 26 Memorial Day-Church office closed

May 29 - Ascension Day

May 30 & 31- Ladies WELCA Convention @ Lutherlyn

June 8 - Pentecost

June 12, 13 & 14. Synod Assembly at Thiel College

May Birthdays

5/8 TJ Penn

5/12 Sophia Woomer

5/14 Pat Wenzel Smith

5/20 Analee Cree

5/22 Lon Jenkins

5/23 Ron Huff

5/23 Mike Paris

5/31 JoAnna Atwater

May Anniversary

5/9 Ed and Jeanne Tropper with 61 years of wedded bliss

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May 2025 Abiding Hope Calendar



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 27 2 nd Sunday of Easter Worship 9:30 with Sonlight Puppets Choir 9 & 10:45		ns for Pentecos eadline Mav 18t		1	2	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
4 3 rd Sunday of Easter Worship 9:30 Choir @ 10:45 Bible Study 10:45 Directory Photos	5 Prayer Shawls 10-12 M. Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	6 Ministry Team 10:30 M Lessons 4-6	7	8 KAFP 9-11	9	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
of Easter Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45 Bible Study 10:45 Directory Photos	12 RSVP for Men's Night Out M. Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	13 Ministry Team 10:30 RSVP for LNO Council 6:30 M Lessons 4-6	Men's Night Out @ O'Charley's 6:30	15 Ladies Night Out ~ 5:30 Venango Golf	16 WELCA Lutherlyn Convention DL	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
18 5 th Sunday Of Easter Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45 Bible Study 10:45 Choir Appreciation Day	19 Prayer Shawls 10-12 M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	20 Ministry Team 10:30 Care Team 12:30 VOTE Today! M Lessons 4-6	Prayer Warriors 1 to 3	KAFP 9-11 Erie Conference Meeting @ AH 6:30 Collecting used	DL Newsletter	24 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
Symphonic 6th Sunday of Easter Worship 9:30 Choir TBA Bible Study 10:45	26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	27 Ministry Team 10:30 M Lessons 4-6	28	29 Ascension Day	30 May 30 &	31 – WELCA Ladies ion & Lutherlyn M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30

Our Mission Statement: A Loving Family, Growing in Faith, Sharing the Hope... of Christ...

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