

Life Together



A Message from Pastor Karen

On October 31, 508 years ago, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Luther and his colleagues were concerned that the Church of his day had lost the ability to speak meaningfully into the lives of people about what it is to live a Christ-like life.

The people were not permitted to read or study the Bible in their own language. When they came for spiritual healing, they were encouraged to purchase indulgences to avoid going to Hell. Even worse, the Church taught that if you really want approval from God, you had to EARN it by doing a lot of good works.

By contrast, Luther taught that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, according to scriptures alone, and that Salvation DID NOT HINGE on what we have to do, but about what God has done for us in Christ, which is our justification.

Acting on our faith relationship with Christ IS NOT AN ARMCHAIR SPORT... it requires THOUGHT, ACTION, community interaction AND COMMITMENT.

In order for the mission and values of ABIDING HOPE to engage our surrounding community and make a difference in our world, everybody – every man, woman and child of our believing family needs to contribute prayer, ideas, work energy and financial support.

In the next several weeks, we are going to focus on the operating budget for 2026, and as you might guess, with our present economy this is a grave concern.

You know that we go to extremes to be frugal...

Denise uses the back sides of scrap paper, Sheryl hasn't purchased new music for years, our volunteers help to care for maintenance projects and every area where our elbow grease can save money. Our staff far exceed the number of hours for which they are paid... and so on....

Cond on page 2



Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16506
814.868.8685

Website:

www.abidinghopeerie.org

Office email:

gadministrator@hotmail.com



Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266

pastorparsh@gmail.com

Church Hours:

Mondy & Tuesday 9:30 to 3:30;

Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

Sunday Worship: 9:30

Sunday 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: Jeff Neely



Without volunteers like Andy Saska, Analee Cree, Nancy Cuning, our Church Council, and Tuesday action team members... and many of you, our congregation's ministry could not function as it does.

Currently our finances are challenged by a few expected / unexpected maintenance expenses, like caring for the parking lot, repairing a cranky elevator, replacing all of our electric light bulbs in order to reduce the Penelec bill, and preparing for upcoming plowing expenses.

How do we respond??? Do we close our doors and say we are only a fair-weather church, or do we boldly pray together - **"Lord, pour out your spirit on us? Let us be conduits of your grace. Let us be vessels of your love. Work through us, do something, even in spite of us, that will make our worshipping community a witness to your grace."**

We are planning for a terrific ride into the future. I dare to believe God has wonderful things planned for this congregation and its activities in and through YOU, God's beloved people.

Friends, I know each one of us is threatened by burdens and obligations, but please understand that through your offerings of time, talent and finances, God's Word is clearly heard at Abiding Hope and our plans extend well into the future to continue to honor God in what we say and in what we do. Please, prayerfully consider your response to the stewardship campaign drive, as it is likely to make a difference in how we continue our ministry for the foreseeable future.



Please keep in your prayers: Members and friends: Ed Whitbred, Ed

Tropper and Jeanne, Monica MacKellar, Trish Cirillo, Karen Shick, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Ron Froess, Kathi Sinnott, Don & Donna Holder, Judy Johnston, and requests from the Little Library.



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



Crop Walk: What a beautiful day to walk and appreciate Presque Isle. Walking for such a worthy cause even more beautiful. Your support of \$315.00 will help our local food pantries as well as feed the hungry worldwide. Know that your contribution will touch many lives. Thank you - *Analee Cree*



Little Free Library & Pantry News:

The library camera recorded four surprise visitors this month—four deer (including a young fawn) surrounding the library, sniffing the tempting scents of the pantry, but unable to open the doors—they instead grazed on the grasses around our church lawn for several minutes before moving on!

The pantry and library continue to serve our community with a wide variety of books for all ages. Now that autumn has arrived, welcomed donations include **cans/pouches of soups/meals/stews, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, small servings of cereal (the library cannot accommodate large boxes), crackers, nuts, granola/protein bars** **Please check expiration dates. Donations in glass containers, or liquids (milk, juice, etc.) cannot be accepted.** **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!**



Council Meeting October 14, 2025

The joy of this council is the mixture and respect for the different views. Discussion is open and lively, all done with what is best for the Abiding Hope Family and spreading God's word.

- Electric bill still high. Motion made and passed to purchase LED bulbs and update all the lighting in the building. Estimated cost \$1,300. The money will come from the Memorial Fund to cover this expense.
- After reviewing the landscaping contract, there are several line items that we can do and save money. This is due in March of next year.
- All are invited to the Thanksgiving dinner at New Hope on November 16 at 12:15. RSVP by Nov 9.
- Building and Worker's Comp Insurance has been changed to Erie Insurance. Cost savings and better coverage.

We ask that you start thinking about daily Stewardship in your lives. Your council spends time each meeting reviewing the budget and what we can do to keep bills paid and most importantly "Live our Mission". Each of you are an important part of making this happen.

Respectfully submitted by - *Analee Cree/Council Secretary*

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## Little Jesus Outreach

Nearly 250 Little Jesus packets have now been distributed through our church, and many more are still available! Thank you for your enthusiastic participation as an ambassador of Christ! A basket holding them can be found on the table under the video monitor in the Narthex—please help yourself, pray for the person who will 'find' the Little Jesus you place in public places, and share your stories with Pastor Karen!

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Prayer Warriors: Our next Prayer Warriors gathering is **Wednesday, November 19 from 1-3:00.**

The sanctuary and Quiet Room are open for silent intercessory prayer and meditation for our families, church, neighborhoods, community, nation, and world. Please join in prayer from wherever you are, for as long as you can as we obey the Scripture: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." – **Ephesians 6:18.**

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**KAPF Update:** In September the Food Pantry began a new program asking AHLC, New Hope and Temple Anshe Hessed members to donate 1 specified food item each month to provide every family with the food item. Items requested are:

**November....** Creamed corn, dried beans, oatmeal

**December....** Macaroni & Cheese, chicken ramen, tomato or chicken noodle soup

You are asked to drop your monthly donations in the bins in the Heritage Room.

Thanks so much for your continuing support. See graphic on page 4.

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Let's Pack some lunches! Abiding Hope will once again be providing a "Night of Food" bags for **"Our Neighbors' Place Seasonal Overflow Shelter"** for our neighbors who are cold and hungry this winter. Following worship on December 14th, we will pack some lunch bags (about 60) filled with sandwiches, snacks, desserts, fruit, beverages and napkins. If you would like to help, a sign-up sheet is in the narthex. You may also text **Jacque Holmberg** - 814-490-4470, email - jholmberg@roadrunner.com, OR *just show up that morning*. We thank the Thrivent Financial Action Team program for the funds to purchase supplies. See ad on page 9.



"I Like Sloppy Joes and Cookies."

VOLUNTEERS and/or COOKIES needed! (Signup sheet in the narthex, or RSVP to Jacque Holmberg by November 11.) Holy Trinity Sloppy Joe Dinner for the Homeless (643 W 17th St, Erie) Thursday, November 20 (from 4 pm to about 6:45 pm) This service project is supported by your hands, feet, and hearts ... and the Thrivent Financial Action Team program.

Folks are needed to transport, prepare, serve, clean up and SMILE! Always a busy, fun, and meaningful evening!



The Rev. Kristen Papson of Erie, PA, was elected in June at Synod Assembly to a six-year term as Bishop of the NWPAsynod of the ELCA. She was installed on October 19th at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Oil City, PA with Pastor Karen participating and Judi Pacileo in attendance.

Bishop Papson has served as Pastor of Mt Calvary LC in Erie since 2015 and Lamb of God LC since 2024. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mercyhurst in 2011 and a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2015.

Congratulations to Bishop Papson. The bishop will be preaching at Abiding Hope on All Saints' Sunday, November 2nd.



Words for Wisdom is a quarterly newsletter written for women of the NWPAsynod. It is 10 pages of articles and information for Lutheran women. Click to enjoy this delightful newsletter. [Read WORDS FOR WISDOM](#)

*Words
for
Women*



Christmas at Bethesda 2025

Make a child's Christmas wish come true

This holiday season, Bethesda Lutheran Services is looking for generous hearts and holiday helpers to bring the magic of Christmas to the children and youth they serve.

Many of the more than 200 children they provide gifts for, have never experienced the joy and warmth of a true holiday celebration.

With your help, Abiding Hope can once again change that and provide them a Christmas they deserve!

Bethesda Christmas notes to remember:

1. Our Residential Youth are currently female
2. We do have boys though with our Alternative Education program and our Partial Hospitalization program
3. We have babies on our Right Start unit and are expecting a few more
4. All gifts must be unwrapped so our staff can see what is being given and check for safety concerns. No sharp objects should be given, like nail files, razors, crochet needles etc.
5. Please don't feel obligated to purchase name-brand items, our children will be happy with all presents! Gift cards also appreciated.
6. Deadline for gifts to AHLC: Monday, December 8th.

Thank you, Abiding Hope, for your generosity. *The Mission Team*

A Christmas at Bethesda wish list is available in the narthex or click the button below.

Bethesda Christmas Wish

🎵 November Music Notes 🎵

As the season of Pentecost winds down, this month we will "Sing of the Lord's Goodness" and "Sing to the Lord of Harvest!" Abiding Hope will be hosting our annual combined Thanksgiving Service with New Hope Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at _____ pm.

Please come and join our friends from New Hope and (other churches?) to give thanks to God for all of His good gifts.

It is still not too late to join the Choir! We rehearse after worship services on Sunday mornings and would love to have you sing with us! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sheryl Williams ~ Coordinator of Music

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



Save the Date

Sat Nov 1 ~ Turn your clocks BACK 1 hour
Sun Nov 2 ~ All Saints' Day
Mon Nov 3 & 17 ~ Prayer Shawls @ 10am
Tues Nov 4 ~ VOTE!!!
Thurs Nov 13 @ 5:30 ~ Ladies Night Out @ Andy's Pub
Sun Nov 16 @ 12:15 Harvest Dinner @ New Hope
RSVP by Nov 9th
Wed Nov 19 @ 6:30 ~ Men's Night Out @ Valerio's
Thurs Nov 20 ~ Sloppy Joes @ Holy Trinity@4pm
Mon Dec 8 ~ Bethesda Christmas gifts due
Sun Dec 14 11am: Cong. Meeting & lunch packing
Fri Jan 2 Committee reports due for Annual Report
Sun Jan 18 11am: Annual meeting



November Birthdays

11/2 Dave Cuning
11/2 Gregg Harris
11/2 Elizabeth Runyan
11/4 Michele Rion
11/9 Harry Speakman
11/12 Rich Filson
11/12 Marygrace Cirillo
11/14 Marion Fuller
11/15 Jeanne Tropper
11/23 Pat Kerr is 95 today
11/27 Cindi Reid



November Anniversary

11/29 Amy & Mike Rigelman~24 yrs.





VOTING FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

You have likely heard about the importance of “civic engagement”—but what does this actually mean? The word “civic” relates to a city or town, particularly the community that lives within it. When we talk about civic engagement, we’re referring to the process of becoming involved in your own community and the administration of the town, city, state, and/or country that you live in. **Voting is one of the most commonly utilized and important forms of political civic engagement.** Voting in local elections has just as much importance as national elections. The decisions made by elected officials have long-term implications and are especially important for time sensitive matters such as environmental policies. For people of faith, by taking part in elections, individuals can blend their religious principles and political beliefs, ensuring that their faith-driven values are reflected in public policy and contribute to the common good, especially in areas like climate action and social justice. It is important to take advantage of these rights to make your voice heard.

The 2023 American Climate Metrics Survey found that 85% of Americans agree that we have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy climate for ourselves and our children. **It is our sacred responsibility to vote.** Learning local, state, and national candidates’ stances and plans on creating a safe and healthy world is our duty as citizens and an important part of making our voting plan. Voting for candidates who will work for a thriving and safe future and allocating our tax money in ways that support creation honors our faith. Not voting affects the outcome of each election and does not honor God. **Let us all be the change we hope to see in the world by being informed and active in the election process.** Learn more about voting climate through ecoAmerica’s resources at: <https://ecoamerica.org/get-out-the-vote/>

We pray that every congregation and every person of faith will look to these principles as we examine our choices at the ballot box in the coming election.

Contact us at: nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

AHLC Committees

Ministers

All the members of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Pastor

Pastor Karen Parsh 814-881-3266

Church Council

Andy Saska 814-450-5620

Ministry Team

Pastor Karen Parsh 814-881-3266

Thrivent Financial

The Holmberg's 814-490-4470

Worship & Music

Paul Mirone 814-790-8825

Sheryl Williams 814-882-2830

Outreach

Analee Cree 814-397-6168

Diana Stoker 814-882-3331

Finance

Michele Rion 814-449-3263

Cindy Filson 814-833-6875

Little Library & Youth

Connie Kerr Vogt 814-403-2885

Prayer Warriors

Jerry Vogt 814-504-3566

Office

Denise Miller 814-868-8685

Property

Andy Saska 814-450-5620

Hospitality

Open

Care Team

Jacque Holmberg 814-490-4470

KAFP

Rich Filson 814-460-8229

Adult Education

Pastor Karen Parsh 814-881-3266

Altar Care

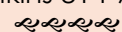
Analee Cree 814-397-6168

Nancy Cunning 814-833-3109

Communications

Nancy Cunning 814-833-3109

Lon Jenkins 814-790-8225



Anyone wishing to grow in their faith by donating their time and talents to one of these worthy teams, please feel free to contact a team leader to volunteer or ask how you can assist.

You're Invited ~ Friendship Harvest Dinner at New Hope Presbyterian Church

AHLC members and friends are invited to a Thanksgiving Dinner with our friends at New Hope Presbyterian Church. Sign up in the narthex by Nov 9.

Harvest Dinner @ New Hope Presbyterian Church
5440 Washington St Erie, PA

Sunday November 16 @ 12:15 pm



On Saturday, Nov 1st



A graphic for "Let's Pack Some Lunches" featuring a brown paper lunch bag, a water bottle, and some snacks. The text reads: "Let's Pack Some Lunches Sunday, December 14th after worship Join us in Fellowship Hall and help pack 60 lunch bags (with P&J sandwiches, snacks, dessert, fruit & beverages) to help feed the homeless at Erie's Winter Overflow Shelter. Sign up or just show up. ★★★★★ Supplies courtesy of Thrivent Financial Action Team program Abiding Hope Lutheran Church Our Neighbors' Place Seasonal Overflow Shelter".

VOTE! Tuesday, Nov. 4th ~ Casting Ballots as People of Faith

God calls us to care for our neighbors and actively shape a just and compassionate society. Civic engagement, including voting and public service, is a meaningful way we live out our faith in the public sphere. The ELCA encourages everyone to engage in the political process with integrity, advocating for justice, peace, and the common good.



Order your **Christmas Poinsettia's** (red or white) to adorn Abiding Hope's altar this Christmas or donate to the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry in memory of your loved ones.

Red or White poinsettias are \$8.50 each. Deadline to order: Tuesday, December 2nd.

Donate to KAFP by December 14th. Forms available in the narthex or by clicking box in graphic.

A graphic for "Poinsettias for Christmas" featuring a poinsettia plant and a Christmas tree. The text reads: "Poinsettias for Christmas FOIL WRAPPED FOR \$8.50 - CHOOSE RED OR WHITE ORDER DEADLINE: DEC 2. or Donate to KAFP DEADLINE DEC 14. Click here for Poinsettia/KAFP order form".

What is Advent?

Some years ago, at a Reformation gathering in late October, surrounded by fall foliage, pumpkins, and Luther's roses, a friend who works in retail told me of her current workload.

"Tonight's the night my coworkers unload all the holiday stock," she said.
"Christmas starts tomorrow."



Her quip is sadly too true considering the number of retail outlets who hope to make a maximum profit in the limited days before Christmas. Seemingly overnight transformations of merchandise displays from garish orange and black Halloween spookiness change to red and green, silver and gold Christmas tree splendor. We groan at the Christmas countdowns that can appear as early as July or August. But if we're honest, we look forward to the merry Holiday jingles. **We're the reason Christmas comes early.**

Let's face it. Though some of us remember what Advent is about - the penitential church season which begins officially on November 30 and leads to our celebration of the birth of Christ, has been hijacked. Most of us festoon our homes in garland, indulge in bonbons and cookies, and buy, wrap and even open gifts long before the actual Christmas season arrives on the 24th of December.

So, what happens when we effectively ignore Advent?

I know what happens to me... By the time we finally reach Christmas Eve — traditional opening day, of the wondrous season celebrating our savior's birth — we are exhausted with Christmas. We want it to be over.

After six solid weeks (probably more) of Holiday carols, we are ready to sing "Silent Night" at the Christmas Eve service and be done with it for another year. By New Years' Eve, when Baby Jesus is supposedly just one week old — we've already checked out of Christmas.

Thankfully, giving Advent our full attention is the perfect remedy for avoiding Christmas burnout. Derived from the Latin word "coming into," Advent methodically prepares us to observe one of the most holy events in the history of the world, by introducing us to some of the greatest "Men of God" from the Old Testament – and by hearing their promises of God's redeeming love – prophets like Jeremiah, Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. Through their testimony, we hear how our long-expected savior will cover our sins and offer redemption.

As our days become darker and colder, we turn our faces toward the flickering candlelight and hear of the light of the World (John 8:12). We fast, pray and contemplate, because these ancient disciplines prepare us to accept with patience and building joy of the true gift of Christmas.

Advent, this wonderful, preparatory season, brings us not an artificial panorama of commercial trinkets but God's incarnate promise of eternal life. Though we can't fully escape the secular trappings around us, we can focus our eyes on the one thing needful and strive to remember and pray the age-old words that God still answers: **O come, o come, Emmanuel.**



A letter from the bishops of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) (ELCA) issued in October 2025 calls for prayer, advocacy, and action on issues including migrant protection, racial justice, and LGBTQIA+ rights. The bishops encourage members to engage in hospitality and respectful dialogue and hold onto hope. This letter is a message to the entire church, distributed through synods, and contains a call to action. [Click here to open the letter.](#)



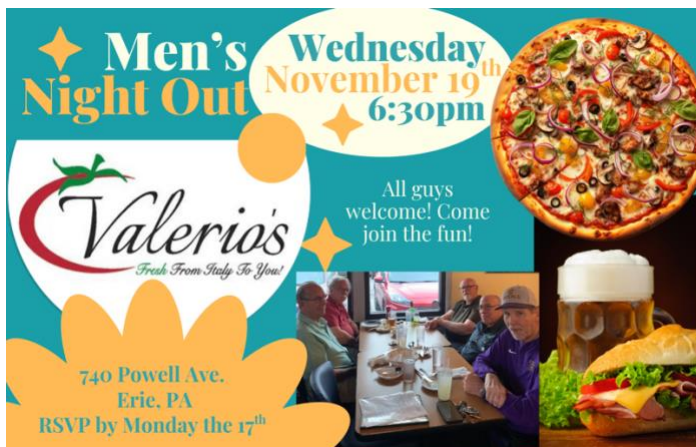
November 2025

Abiding Hope Calendar

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 ALL SAINTS' DAY	Bishop Kristen Papson to preach at All Saints' worship service on Sunday, Nov 2 at 9:30.				Turn back clocks 1 hour Sat. Nov 1st at bedtime	1 WELCA Fall Gathering 10-1 Luther Memorial M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
2 All Saints Day Traditional music Worship 9:30 with Bishop Papson preaching Choir 9 & 10:45	3 Prayer Shawls 10-12 M. Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	4 Election Day Ministry Team 10:30 	5 Tops 9-11 M Lessons 7:30-8:30	6 KAFP 9-11:30 	7 Nov 11 is 	8 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
9 22nd Sunday of Pentecost Worship 9:30 Choir 10:45 RSVP for Harvest Dinner @ New Hope	10 M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	11 Veteran's Ministry Team 10:30 Church Council 6:30 RSVP for LNO M Lessons 4-6	12 Tops 9-11 Prayer Warriors 1-3 M Lessons 7:30-8:30	13 Ladies Night Out 5:30 @ Andy's Pub	14 	15 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
16 23rd Sunday of Pentecost Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Choir 9 & 10:45	17 RSVP for MNO Prayer Shawls 10-12 M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	18 Ministry Team 10:30 M Lessons 4-6	19 Tops 9-11 DL Newsletter MNO 6:30 @ Valerio's on Powell Ave. M Lessons 7:30-8:30	20 KAFP 9-11:30 Sloppy Joe dinner at Holy Trinity 	21 Pastor Karen preaches at Temple	22 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
23 Christ the King with Rabbi Morias preaching Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45	24 M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	25 Ministry Team 10:30 M Lessons 4-6	26 Tops 9-11 M Lessons 7:30-8:30	27 	28 Susan Jerge Eulogy AH	29 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
30 First Sunday in Advent Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45		Our Mission Statement: A Loving Family, Growing in Faith, Sharing the Hope of Christ!				


Men's Night Out
Wednesday November 19th 6:30pm
Valerio's
Fresh From Italy To You!
 740 Powell Ave.
 Erie, PA
 RSVP by Monday the 17th
 All guys welcome! Come join the fun!


Prayer Shawl Group
 meets 1st & 3rd Mondays each month
 November 3rd & 17th @ 10am
 Ladies are welcome to join the
 "Prayer Shawl Gathering" for prayer, good
 conversation, and knitting/crocheting shawls,
 prayer cards, or lap robes for the homebound,
 baptisms and new members. 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.


Andy's
Ale House & Grill Sports Entertainment
 3866 Peach St.
 @ Liberty & Peach
 Ladies Night Out
THURSDAY
November 13th ~ 5:30
 All ladies welcome! Sign
 up in narthex or contact
 Jacque to RSVP by
 Tuesday, November 11th ~
 Rides leave AH at 5:00


Prayer Warriors
 Meets the 3rd
 Wednesday of each
 month from 1-3
 The sanctuary is open for prayer
 and all are welcome; or consider
 some time in prayer from where
 ever you are. Intercessory prayer is
 powerful as we pray for the special
 needs of our congregation,
 community, nation and world.
 Meets Wed ~ November 19th from 1 to 3

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

November 2025