

# Life Together



## A Message from Pastor Karen

NEW YEARS #1 PRAYER - May my words build and not tear down... may they be full of love and encouragement, may they bring hope and joy and confidence, and may the risen Christ be seen in every initiative I commit my time and talents to, SO THAT at the end of the day I may look to Christ for blessings, encouragements, and opportunities to grow and share my faith with all his beloved children.

It was hard, I will confess, to face the facts that this body of mine was showing more wear and tear than I realized, and that my preferred shoes look a lot like the ones my grandma used to wear. It was an unpleasant realization that on my own, my footfalls were wearing me out, and that unaided, even the way I walked, stood, and stepped was going to end up causing pain.

So, I got some insertable in-soles designed for "work," and immediately I noticed two things: one, for starters, my feet weren't aching nearly as much at the end of the day. And number two, the relief and the redirection brought by the in-soles literally changed the way I walked.

The final lesson from Paul's transformation is his commitment to a purpose-driven life. After his encounter with Jesus, Paul dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel. His sense of purpose was not just about his own spiritual journey, but also about serving others.

Having a clear sense of purpose can provide direction and motivation when dealing with change. It can help us find meaning in the midst of uncertainty and stay focused on our goals.

I'm not sure I realized until recently how big a deal this would have been to the first century listeners in Rome, who were used to seeing countless shrines, temples, and devotees of countless gods and goddesses, but who never would have expected that worshiping their gods was supposed to make a difference in the way they lived their lives.

So much of the religion of the Roman Empire, including the gods and goddesses of the peoples and nations it had swallowed up, was reducible down to giving the appropriate offering or sacrifice to the chosen deity in exchange for the favor or blessing of that deity, but with no practical impact on what you did with the rest of your day.

There was almost no connection at all between the

Cont. on page 2



## Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd

Erie, PA 16506

814.868.8685

Website:

[www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org)

Office email:

[ahadmin@hotmail.com](mailto:ahadmin@hotmail.com)



## Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266

[pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto: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



gods you worshipped and the virtues you practiced,

But Jesus was different, as Paul told it, because following him wasn't merely a matter of muttering a few words to a statue and moving on with your day unchanged. To follow Jesus is to be shaped by Jesus, all the way down to our actions, words, and choices.

It's true that change can be challenging. But let's be honest: it also presents opportunities for personal growth and transformation.

Like Paul, we can learn from our experiences and use them as steppingstones towards becoming better versions of ourselves.

This New Year... let's continue to gather strength in our walk with faith, turning life's inevitable challenges into purposeful transformations – reflections of Christ amongst us here and now... Let's experience all the wonders of God's gifts and delight in the relationships we share through our faith lives.

Dearest friends may this be the happiest of New Years for each and every one of you! And may God's blessings transform your coming days with joy. Thank you for ALL the love and generosity you have shown to me through this past year. You have made a difference!



## AHLC Offers Education Classes in 2026

This new year – 2026 – our Christian Education Committee plans on taking a deeper and more penetrating look at what it means to be a follower of Christ.

**First, we're launching a "READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR" initiative** – supported by ZOOM meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday nights of the month. These will be open to some new friends from Mount Calvary, New Hope and Lamb of God.

**Second, we'll continue with our popular Bible Study of Sunday morning's Gospel message** -11:00, directly following worship. This year, we'll take a deep look into book of Matthew.

**Third, we'll continue with our wonderful discussion-based Thursday afternoon group – Talking About the Tough Stuff of Faith** – in which we use great resources to help us understand some of the most difficult issues of our age – Forgiveness, Grace, Death and Dying, Grief, Depression... What does Jesus teach about surviving brokenness and moving on with life?

**THURSDAY STUDY AND DISCUSSION SERIES** will be beginning on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. We will continue to talk and read about growing through grief and hard times and take a walk through Chuck Swindoll's book Never Lose Hope.

All of us are in desperate need of strength to endure and hope to carry on. Life is difficult and demanding. It's often filled with pain, heartaches, setbacks, and detours. Disappointments in others sadden us, scandals among those we respect shock us, and disputes in our families, churches, or workplaces demoralize us. When such troubles strike, they can be downright devastating. *But they don't have to be.* To follow Jesus is to be shaped by Jesus, all the way down to our actions, words,

Never Lose Hope, is a pocket-sized text that reassures us that we can endure unexpected calamities, making it to the other side with a resilient faith and confident trust in God. How? By taking our stand on the strong foundation of Scripture. When trials and tribulations rumble in, we can emerge from the rubble with a strong resolve to recover and rebuild. Not just to survive, but to thrive.



## LENTEN STUDY AND OUTREACH SERIES

Look towards a new approach to the Lenten Season this year with our BUILDING THE BODY initiative...

Our studies will begin at 1:00 on Thursdays with a Lenten devotion and lead into a specially designed project for nursing homes, the Trinity Center, homeless shelter and a number of other critical outreach projects... Not only do we hope to grow in faith as disciples... we will have a special impact in growing the faith for some of our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. This will be art for a purpose... BUT... we will need YOU to help plan and carry out these unique activities... OUR FIRST PLANNING SESSION WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 in the conference room.

The foundational book for this study is PRACTICING THE WAY by John Mark Comer. "We are constantly being formed by the world around us. To be formed by Jesus will require us to become his apprentice. That means living by what the first century Christian disciples called a Rule of Life – a set of practices that slow us down and open space in our lives for God to transform the deepest parts of us to become more like Him."



### Please keep in your prayers:

Family and friends of Dan Kaeberlein and Mike Jenkins. Also these members and friends: Pastor Karen Parsh, Christina Sontheimer, Laura Vanlandingham, Mike Zlotnicki, Patrick Short, Judi Pacileo, Carl Larese, Jackie Seib, Ed Whitbred, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Gail Boyce, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Karen Shick, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Candy & Arch Watkins, Bob McDaniel, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library requests.



Please contact Pastor Karen with prayer requests; [pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com), cell phone: 814-881-3266 or contact the church office: [ahadministrator@hotmail.com](mailto:ahadministrator@hotmail.com) or 814-868-8685.



**2025 Contribution Statements** will be placed in your AH mailbox during the second half of January as well as emailed to you. If you need to have the statement sent to you by US mail, please let Cindy Filson know by either calling her at 814-833-6875 or email [AHfinsec@outlook.com](mailto:AHfinsec@outlook.com). Please verify the statements with your records and if you have a question or find an error, please notify Cindy.

Cindy Filson ~ Financial Secretary [ahfinsec@outlook.com](mailto:ahfinsec@outlook.com).



### “Music For a Sunday Morning”

#### **MUSICAL PROGRAM AT MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026, 2:30 P.M.**

Mt. Calvary will be dedicating its new organ console and honoring Vicki Baldwin, our late organist and choir director for 33 years.

Please join us for a program of “Music for a Sunday Morning” featuring Dr. Chris Petit, music director and organist at St. Paul's Episcopal, Phil Baldwin, violinist, and Margaret Andreso, soprano. In addition to their musical selections, there will be a hymn sing of Mt. Calvary favorites. Mt. Calvary is located at 1603 West 32<sup>nd</sup> St at the corner of Greengarden Blvd. All are invited.



**Flower arrangements** for Sunday worship in 2026: Weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements: \$20.00ea. Please place the completed form and payment in the offering plate or deliver to the office by the Monday prior your chosen Sunday.



## Annual Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday, January 18 at 11am

The congregation will meet in the sanctuary to:

- review and vote on the 2025 AHLC Annual Report. (Available to members on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>.)
- discuss Old & New Business.
- enjoy coffee and conversation with friends

## Night to Shine 2026

Night to Shine is a prom-style experience for people with special needs being held on Friday, February 13.

ErieNTS25 rolled out the red carpet for 140 honored guests at the Zem Zem Shrine Club! Guests, ranging in age from 14 to 82, received flowers, were cheered for, treated to dinner and danced the night away. They posed for photos, received thoughtful gifts, and were crowned king or queen of the prom. A separate party was held for their parents and caregivers. Over 250 dedicated volunteers came together to make ErieNTS25 - donating their time, energy, and talents to create pure joy. The planning team is very excited to plan ErieNTS26 to honor our friends with special needs - for the 9th consecutive year!



**Your support brings joy, inclusion, and unforgettable memories to everyone involved in this once-a-year celebration. Every donation helps create an evening filled with meaning, magic and connection.**

Please consider volunteering to be a "Buddy". This allows their parent/caregiver time to visit with each other and enjoy the evening. Go to: <https://form.jotform.com/243055861041147> to sign up to be a "Buddy". Spots are limited. Be a cheerleader as each guest walks down the red carpet. **Make a cash donation to help support this beautiful evening.** Last year Abiding Hope contributed \$500.00 towards this event that is free to each guest. Due to budget constraints, this cannot happen this year. Donate any amount in a pew envelope marked "Night to Shine".

Information about the event can be found at <https://timtebowfoundation.org/night-to-shine/> or in the narthex or ask Analee. THANK YOU for your support of this SHINING Night.



**The Read through the Bible series** will begin on January 11<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) and cover each book of the Bible - not deeply, but with historical background and theological purpose. Our twice a month gathering will be by zoom to enable us to meet regardless of weather. Our groups are meant to clarify details, answer questions and give brief history behind what they have read. The actual read through will be just shy of a year. People are encouraged to read whatever translation is most comfortable for them. Part of our discussion periods will bring out the minor and sometimes major differences in their translation.

Sign-ups in the narthex with name and email address.



## The Lutherlyn Promise

Many years ago, Lutherlyn made the promise to never turn a child away from summer camp for financial reasons. This promise remains never broken thanks to the support of congregations, foundations, individuals, and families. If you are able, we hope that you will consider making a gift to Lutherlyn's Annual Fund which provides camperships for the families who need them.



Each summer thanks to donor support Lutherlyn provides more than \$60,000 in financial assistance. Your gift will allow Lutherlyn to keep this vitally important promise next summer!

[DONATE NOW](#)

## Youth Winter Retreat ~ January 16-18, 2026

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT for 4th-12th graders (campers will be divided by age groups and stay in cabins with cabin leaders from the summer staff). GAGA ball in the snow, Bible study, the bouldering room, songs, worship, friends, indoor and outdoor games, lots of your summer camp favorites, and fun in the wonderful winter weather! You can give this as a gift! We have a [printable gift certificate](#) available on our website.

**Cost:** \$150 per camper. **Registration deadline:** January 6th, 2026



## Quilting/Crafting Retreat ~ January 20-25, 2026

Do you feel like you need a vacation just so you can finish a project or try your hand at a new crafting hobby? Lutherlyn's Crafting Retreats are the perfect opportunities for you! You choose the length of your stay and bring your quilting, scrapbooking, or other craft supplies, and we take care of the rest!

Registration Deadline: January 9, 2026 [Learn More](#)



## Food Pantry Update

The KAFP has implemented "meal bundles". "Meal Bundles" are bags that contain all the ingredients for a full meal plus the recipes.



In November we received some wonderful donations from New Hope and Temple Anshe Hesed, along with Abiding Hope. We have our new freezer paid off and have money to help get fresh food items for our neighbors. TOPS donated 68 pounds of food and cranberry sauce and canned yams. The cereal donated has been well received. The donations of flour & sugars were fantastic. We truly appreciate all the help we get.

In January we ask for donations of cereal for the January/February distributions. Thank you everyone. **Rich Filson**



**Donations for Bethany and Chosen Continue ~** Collection of used clothing and household items for **Bethany Outreach** continues as well as collection of shoes and boots (pairs only) in good condition for **Chosen**. Drop off in the Heritage Room. **Thank you! Analee Cree.**





## Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

### LEARN ABOUT NATURE TO CARE FOR NATURE

In winter it can be easy to stay inside where it is warm and avoid putting on all the clothes it takes to be comfortable outdoors. However, winter is a great time to learn more about many of the species that share our neighborhoods. Teaching ourselves and our family members about God's creation is the first step to being good stewards.

As we learn to identify different species of animals or plants, the way our brain stores that knowledge changes. That change leads to an appreciation and, eventually, to caring about that species. It is the things that we care about that we are willing to take action to preserve. Thus, our stewardship begins with knowledge.

Thankfully, there are many tools available that can help us learn to identify the species around us. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology produced the Merlin Bird ID App (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>) which allows users to identify birds by sight or sound. (Having a way to identify birds by sound alone, is a wonderful tool!) Apps are also available for identifying animal tracks. Cornell University has also released two keys for identifying trees; one for the winter and one for the summer: <http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu/tree/keys.htm>.

If books are more useful for you, the Nature Study Guild has a series of pocket field guides that cover flowers, trees, ferns, berries, animal tracks, and weeds. Most can be purchased for about \$5.

Bringing the wildlife to you can also be very rewarding. Putting a birdfeeder within view of a window can bring the birds close enough to identify them and learn about their habits and preferences. To be a responsible bird feeder follow the guidelines of Project FeederWatch: <https://feederwatch.org/learn/feeding-birds/>

In the words of Baba Dioum, a Senegalese forestry engineer, "In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

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.

Dear Abiding Hope Family  
A Heartfelt thank you for the Christmas gift.  
Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.  
Many Wishes for a Blessed New Year, denise

**Thank you** to everyone who helped to prepare the meal bags to serve to our local homeless folks on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The PB & J sandwiches, fruit, snacks, and "Little Jesus" figures were appreciated. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for funding this Action Team project.

**Thank you** to our Care Team angels who delivered Christmas gifts to our Abiding Hope shut ins. It was great to visit and share Holy Communion with these members who we keep in our prayers. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for funding this Action Team project.

## Council Meeting Recap ~ December 9<sup>th</sup>

As we close out another year as council members of Abiding Hope, we are filled with gratitude for what our Abiding Hope family has accomplished. Focusing on the good our congregation does make the hills we still need to climb doable. The members of council are thankful for your support and always welcome questions and suggestions. It is with sadness and heartfelt thanks we say good-bye to Dave Cunning and Michele Rion for serving on council. A step down from council will hopefully open other doors to serve Abiding Hope and our Erie community.

- Thank you to Jacque Holmberg for putting together the spreadsheet of time and treasure responses. Now let's put this information to work to benefit the congregation
- A motion was made and passed to purchase ZOOM access for a year. This will give the upcoming Bible study more flexibility and can be used for other groups.
- Discussion on creating a box for members who donate items or money to cover costs of repairs. This will be used to advise the congregation of what it truly costs. Analee to supply the box for the Narthex. Watch for more information to come.
- A motion was made and passed to begin planning another Easter Flock in 2026.
- Cutting back on landscaping costs still being reviewed
- Need a posted list of where fire extinguishers are to help ensure they are kept up to code

Thank you, Abiding Hope, for your support in too many ways to list. We are looking forward to a year of growth in many ways. Respectfully submitted by: *Analee Cree* - Council Secretary



## Congregational Meeting - December 14

The weather was not on our side, yet we are thankful for the members who came. This meeting goal was to discuss and accept the 2026 budget as well as other issues.

- There are 2 openings on council. Barb Ruhlman and Jo Zeimet accepted the nomination and will join council in January 2026
- The nominating committee will be Nancy Cunning and Lon Jenkins
- Synod convention representatives will be Rick Penn and Judi Pacileo.
- Audit team - Jacque - Donna - Nancy
- A decision not to participate in Erie Gives in 2026 was made

Please plan on attending January 18 for the Congregational Meeting following the service. It is a recap of the committees and a good time to gain understanding of what it takes to keep the doors open and the word of Christ being spread.

Respectfully submitted by - *Analee Cree* /Council Secretary



## Little Jesus Project

Every Sunday, please make it a practice to take a "A Little Jesus" (or two!) and keep in it your purse/pocket for use during the week. You will find these in the Narthex in the basket located under the monitor. Find a place to leave it throughout your week—in lobbies, on elevator railings, on park benches, in waiting rooms, in restaurants! Serve as an ambassador for Christ by giving the gift of "A Little Jesus" to someone who may not yet know Him! To date, our church has left over 200 Little Jesus figurines for others to find! Sixty were placed in the lunch bags our church created and dispersed to the homeless in December! Please say a prayer for those who 'find a Little Jesus'!



## Little Free Library/Pantry

We have had an increase of visitors using the small pantry that we include in the Little Library. With that increase, our food supply has decreased significantly. The following donations would be greatly appreciated: **small packages of nuts/dried fruit, granola bars (no chocolate-based ones please), cheese/peanut butter crackers, dried packets of oatmeal, individual cups of meals/cereals, packaged tuna/bean/rice-based meals, and small packaged snacks like pretzels. Cans cannot be accepted in cold weather, nor can any liquids.** Please check for expiration dates. **There is also a need for gloves, hats, scarves, socks**—to date NO ONE who has taken food has had boots or gloves, and many have no hat or scarf! Typically, these visits take place between midnight and 5:00 a.m. which makes their need so much greater.

The educational packets created with the grant received, are being taken, which is GREAT to witness! Thank you and blessings to all who are donating and praying for this important ministry of our church.



## Epiphany Worship with the Burning of the Greens

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road**

Service of Holy Communion followed by Burning of the Christmas Greens, with cocoa and cookies afterward. Our guest preacher will be the Very Rev. Dr. John P. Downey, Vicar, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Fairview.

The Scandinavian custom of an Epiphany burning of the greens was introduced to Faith Lutheran several years ago and it has become a beloved local tradition. You are welcome to bring the Christmas trees and greens from your congregation or home to add to the bonfire; just give us a heads-up first. All are welcome, dress warm for the burning of the greens! See ad on page 11.

For more information, call 814-899-9653 or e-mail [faithlepastor@gmail.com](mailto:faithlepastor@gmail.com).



## ♪ January Music Notes ♪

“Happy New Year” from the musicians of Abiding Hope! We begin the month with our annual Epiphany Service on January 4th, led by Brian Gresh and Paul Mirone on guitar. They will be singing the “Bread of Life” liturgical setting from With One Voice (the Blue Book). Please note that this will be a Blended Service, followed by Traditional Worship with organ accompaniment on January 11th.

The Choir will also be on a brief hiatus for a few weeks until rehearsals resume January 11th, with weekly anthems to return on January 18th. Please consider joining the Choir as part of your New Year's resolution this year – new members are always welcome!

Blessings to all for a Healthy, Peaceful and Joyful New Year! *Sheryl*

*Sheryl Williams* ~ Coordinator of Music  
[sheryl4013@yahoo.com](mailto:sheryl4013@yahoo.com) ~ (814) 882-2830



**Epiphany ~** Either on Twelfth Night (5 January), the twelfth day of Christmastide and eve of the feast of the Epiphany, or on Epiphany Day (6 January) itself, many Christians, including Anglicans, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Roman Catholics, among others) write on their doors or lintels with chalk in a pattern such as "20 ~~H~~ C ~~H~~ M ~~H~~ B ~~H~~ 26". The numbers in this example refer to the calendar year 202+6 and the crosses to Christ. The letters C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the biblical Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar), or alternatively for the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat* ('May Christ bless this house'), or IIIK referring to the three kings.

Chalking the door is done most on Epiphany Day itself. Or, it may be done on any day within the Epiphany season. In some localities, the chalk used to write the Epiphany tide pattern is blessed by a Christian priest or minister on Epiphany Day, then taken home to write the pattern.

The Christian custom of chalking the door has a biblical precedent as the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors in order to be saved from death; likewise, the Epiphany tide practice serves to protect Christian homes from evil spirits until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated. Families also perform this act to represent the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi (and all Gentiles); it thus serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God in one's home.

In 20th century Poland, the practice of chalking the door continued among believers as another way of asserting their Christian identity, despite the Eastern Bloc's state atheism and anti-religious campaigns.



## Prayer Warrior Change of Date for January

Prayer Warriors will need to change their meeting date January to **Wednesday, January 28. Please join us from 1:00-3:00** to silently pray/meditate as intercessors for our church family, our neighborhood, community, country, and world. The church sanctuary is open during this time for your use, or pray from wherever you are at any point in these hours, knowing that you join others in our congregation as they pray also God honors intercessory prayer and **Psalm 34:17-18 "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles..."**



**Dan Kaeberlein** left this world to be with Jesus on December 25<sup>th</sup>. His funeral and the luncheon following were held at Abiding Hope on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Wife Peggy, family and friends grieve his passing. We send our prayers and love. [Click for Dan's Obituary](#)

## Save the Date

Jan 2: Committee Reports due to Nancy Cunning  
Jan 8 & 22: KAFP  
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29: 1-3 Care & Share Discussion group  
Jan 13@6:30 Church Council  
Sun Jan 18:11am: Annual meeting  
Jan 21@ 6:30 Men's Night Out @ Voodoo Brewery  
Jan 22 @ 5:30 Ladies Night Out @ The Cornerstone  
Jan 28: Prayer Warriors 1-3



## January Birthdays

1/1 Jackie Seib  
1/1 Abigail Meier  
1/5 Bill Sontheimer  
1/8 Jeffrey Paris  
1/9 Bill Getson  
1/16 Carol Whitbred  
1/16 John Holmberg



## Abiding Hope Leadership

### 2025 Church Council

#### President

Andy Saska

#### Vice-President

Penny Gresh

#### Secretary

Analee Cree

#### Treasurer

Michele Rion

#### Financial Secretary

Cindy Filson

### 2026 Council Members

Pastor Karen Parsh

Lois Kuhns

Jo Zeimet

Rich Filson

Barb Ruhlman

Diana Stoker

Paul Mirone



# January 2026

## Abiding Hope Calendar

2402 W Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16506 ~  
814-868-8685 ~ [www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org)



**Epiphany**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Dec 31	1	2	3
			<i>New Year's Eve</i>	<i>Happy New Year 2026</i>	Committee Reports due	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
<b>Bible Reading 2026 by ZOOM begins on Sunday Jan 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. RSVP in narthex.</b>						
4	5	6	7 Tops 9-11	8 KAFP 9-11:30	9	10
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of Christmas with Blended Worship 9:30 with special music Rick Penn officiating</b>	Prayer Shawls 10 am  M. Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	No Ministry Team meeting Epiphany Service at Faith LC @ 7pm (See pg. 8) M Lessons 4-6	Lenten Planning Session 1:00	<b>Care &amp; Share 1-3</b>  		M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30 <b>2025 Annual Report available</b>
11	12	13	14 Tops 9-11	15	16	17
<b>Baptism of our Lord Traditional Worship 9:30 Choir 9 &amp; 10:45 Bible Study 11 Bible Reading via ZOOM 7 pm</b>	M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	Ministry Team 10:30 Church Council 6:30  M Lessons 4-6		<b>Care &amp; Share 1-3</b>		M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30  <b>Youth Winter Retreat at Lutherlyn Jan 16-18. See Pg 5</b>
18 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of	19	20	21 Tops 9-11	22 KAFP 9-11:30	23	24
<b>Epiphany Worship 9:30 Choir 9 &amp; 10:45 Congregational mtg. at 11 Mt Calvary organ dedication 2:30</b>	Prayer Shawls 10 am  RSVP for MNO & LNO M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	Ministry Team 10:30 Care Team 12:30  M Lessons 4-6	<b>Men's Night Out @ Voodoo Brewing Co 6:30</b>	<b>Care &amp; Share 1-3</b>  <i>Ladies Night Out @ The Cornerstone on E 38<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:30</i>	<b>DL Newsletter</b>	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
25	26	27	28 Tops 9-11	29	30	31
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir 9 &amp; 10:45 Bible Reading via ZOOM 7 pm</b>	M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	Ministry Team 10:30  M Lessons 4-6	<b>Prayer Warriors 1-3</b>	<b>Care &amp; Share 1-3</b>		M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
		<b>Quilting/Crafting Retreat at Lutherlyn Jan 20-25. See Pg 5</b>		<b>Adult Bible Study continues with an all-new study of the Book of Matthew. Join us Sundays after worship!</b>		<b>The Gospel of Matthew</b> Bible Study Series

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

Wednesday  
January 21  
6:30 PM



**MEN'S NIGHT OUT**



Come for a night out with the guys at one of Erie's most popular brew pubs. RSVP by Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> to Rich Filson at 814-460-8229 or sign up in the narthex.

101 Boston Store Place in downtown Erie, PA

## Prayer Warriors

Normally meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



Revised January date:  
Meets Wed ~ January 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3



## Celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord

With the congregations of the Erie Lutheran Conference

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:00 pm @

Faith Lutheran Church  
5441 E. Lake Road  
Guest Preacher: The Very Rev.  
Dr. John P. Downey, Vicar, St  
Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
Fairview



All are welcome!

"Come,  
let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!"



Service of Holy Communion  
followed by the  
"Burning of the Greens"

## Let's Read through the Bible Together

We'll begin on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) and cover each book of the Bible with historical background and theological purpose. Our twice a month gathering will be by ZOOM to enable us to meet regardless of weather.



MAKE THIS THE  
NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTION YOU  
DON'T BREAK IN 2026.



God comforts us  
so that we may  
comfort one another.

## Care and Share Group

at  
Abiding Hope  
Lutheran Church

Thursdays  
1:00 PM

All are  
welcome.

## Bible Study

JOIN US AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Adult Bible Study continues in 2026 with the all new study of the Book of Matthew. Come to learn and enjoy good conversation each Sunday after worship in the conference room.

[www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org)



The Gospel of  
Matthew  
Bible Study Series

**Prayer Shawl Gatherings**



Ladies are welcome to join the "Prayer Shawl" Gathering, 10a-12noonish for prayer, good conversation, knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer cards, lap robes for the homebound. Need some training, instruction, patterns or yarn? Ladies will provide it all! Join us. Yarn provided.

MEETINGS:  
1ST & 3RD MONDAYS~  
10AM TO 12NOON-ISH  
AT ABIDING HOPE

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

**Ladies' Night Out**

THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 22 @ 5:30  
@ THE CORNERSTONE BAR  
& GRILL  
809 E 38TH ST.



Ladies will meet for an evening of dinner, laughs and good conversation. Enjoy All-American cuisine at The Cornerstone Bar & Grill on 890 E 38th St.

RSVP by Tuesday, Jan 20 - Sign up sheet in the narthex.

# Thank You



Thank you to Analee Cree and Lauren Steele and all others who arranged the LNO Christmas Party, Babes in Toyland, so much fun!



Babes in Toyland  
Christmas Party  
December 18, 2025

Abiding Hope  
Lutheran Church

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Abiding Hope

Lutheran Church  
2402 W Grandview Blvd  
Erie, PA 16506

January 2026