

Life Together



August 2026

A Loving Family, Growing in Faith, Sharing the Hope...of Christ!



A Note about Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen received her much-needed shoulder replacement last Tuesday the 21st in Pittsburgh. She will be convalescing at her son Mike's home until Monday, August 3rd. Afterwards she will at her home recuperating throughout August and early September.



Send cards to 3649 Gerry Road, Erie, PA 16508.

Until further notice, please call Rick Penn at 814-737-9974 with any pastoral emergencies. If an ordained minister is needed, Rick will contact.

Please call the church office, 814-868-8685, for any revisions or additions to the weekly Prayer List.

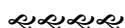


Please keep in your prayers: Kim Sandhold, Pastor Karen

Parsh, Don & Marion Fuller, Cheryl Hicks, Trudy Mueller, Gilda & Anthony, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Cindy & Rich Filson, Christine Petrone, Matt, Carolyn & Elliott Marriotti, Adrianna & Family, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and the Little Library visitors.



Please contact the church office, 814-868-8685 or ahadministrator@hotmail.com or Rick Penn at 814-737-9974, with Prayer List requests or updates.



Receiving Communion: If it is a challenge for you to come forward to receive communion, please alert the usher and you will be served communion at your seat.



Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16506
814.868.8685

Website:

www.abidinghopeerie.org

Office email:

ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266

pastorparsh@gmail.com

Church Hours:

Monday & 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



Business accomplished at NWPAs Synod Assembly (June 5-6, 2026)

At this year's synod assembly, we elected new members to synod council, various committees, and boards:

Synod Council:

Synod Treasurer: Bryan Timm

Cameron/Elk/McKean/Potter clergy: Pastor Carol Sharp

Cameron/Elk/McKean/Potter lay person: Jean Knapp

Clarion/Forest/Venango/Warren lay person: Brenda Zock

Crawford/Mercer lay person: Linda Armstrong

Erie clergy: Pastor Jay Mitchell

Indiana-Jefferson lay person: Kelly Lemmon

Youth Representatives: Maddie Loughry and Willow Kidd

Young Adult Representative: Sullivan Heutsche

Consultation Committee: Discipline Committee:

Pastor Randall Frenz

Pastor Brenda Martin

Pastor Carol Sharp
McCutcheon

Pastor Keith

Amy Huffman

Pastor Jean Kuebler

Lutheran Home at Kane Board:

John (Jack) Zelina

Judith Zelina

Barbara Kimbrough

Carol Lundgren

We passed the 2027 budget, the 2027 compensation guidelines, and the 2027 synod mission support formula as well as amendments to our synod constitution. The synod council was instructed to look into compensation guidelines for second career pastors and present that to synod assembly next year and we passed a motion that the synod bishop ensure that all first call pastors receive compensation in line with synod compensation guidelines. We also passed a resolution by the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action and a resolution about rejecting Christian Nationalism. We heard reports from synod agencies and organizations as well as from our Churchwide representative, Kristen Opalinski, the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Manager. We celebrated church and pastors' anniversaries and recognized congregations that met their mission support goals. We worshipped together, ate meals together, installed Pastor Sara Cogsil as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, and thanked Pastor Sandra Jones for her willingness to serve as interim Assistant to the Bishop.

Thank you to all who attended this year's assembly 2027 dates to be announced soon.

Blessings, Bishop Kristen Papson

Did you know? **Therefore be it resolved...**
Our synod passed a resolution to join the World Council of Churches' **Decade of Climate Justice Action** this year. ...that the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod urges every congregation, synod... individual member, and the churchwide office of the ELCA to commit to active participation in the WCC's Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action..."

What does this resolution mean for me?

This resolution calls for us to recognize that this is a *kairos moment*-- a critical moment in time when God is leading us into decisive action for climate justice. All of us can take action in some way, for example:

- preaching, worship, and educational programming
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- community organizing for resilient communities

and more! Read below for some ideas to get you started!

ACTION ITEMS

Season of Creation

This worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home runs from September 1 -- October 4. Host a liturgical season in your church with the Lutheran eco-lectionary here.

bit.ly/CreationSeason

Actions Speak Loudly

Visit the Actions Speak Loudly board to see what other ELCA congregations are doing to care for Creation. Make an action plan for your church to implement a similar project.

bit.ly/ActionsSpeakLoudly

Certificate in Climate Justice

Organize a congregational team to join the Faith-based Community Organizing or take an individual Certificate in Climate Justice. Both are project-based courses from the Center for Climate Justice and Faith.

bit.ly/CCJFatPLTS

Eco-preacher cohort

This is a year-long program of community support and education for preachers who want to integrate or sharpen their climate-conscious, justice-centered preaching. Applications due August 28.

bit.ly/ecopreach

Faith + Climate Film Series

Lead your congregation in watching and discussing this film series from Blessed Tomorrow. Each 20-minute film is paired with a Study + Discussion Guide designed for faith groups of all ages.

bit.ly/faith-climate-series

Questions about the resolution?

NWPA Synod Green Team
Yvonne Parannick
yvonneparannick@gmail.com

OR
Info@LutheransRestoringCreation.org

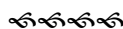
From the resolution as adopted by the synod

(See graphic on page 2)

The ELCA social statement "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the wellbeing of All," teaches that the church "affirms healthy forms of patriotism" and "it opposes unhealthy, distorted forms of patriotism that divide a country and endanger it, including religious nationalism. In the United States, at the current time, "Christian nationalism is the dominant distorted form" and "fuses an imagined conception of a Christian nation with a false vision of God's ultimate will. It confuses the kingdom of God with a particular government." Christian nationalism in the United States promotes the false claim that Christians should hold privileged civic status and often correlates with anti-democratic attitudes, racialized exclusion, and threats to religious liberty. Christian nationalism distorts scripture by framing political power as divine mandate and cultural dominance as Christian duty. Silence in the face of theological distortion risks allowing harmful ideologies to masquerade as Christian teaching.



RESOLVED: the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA clearly and publicly rejects Christian nationalism as incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Lutheran confessional teaching, and the social teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and that the Synod commits to working against the power of Christian nationalism in our congregations and communities by affirming that Christ alone is Lord of the Church and that no nation, ethnicity, or political ideology may claim divine authority; and be it further; and that the Synod actively strives to affirm a vision of Christian public life grounded in humility, service, the cross of Christ, love of neighbor, and consistent with the social teachings of the ELCA.



Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC) Beach Service

Bring a lawn chair and join fellow Erie Lutherans on **Sunday, August 9th**

at 10:00 AM for the annual beach service at the **Cookhouse Pavilion** in Presque Isle State Park. We will gather for worship, fellowship, and food. If able, please bring a dish to share that does not require heating or refrigeration, such as breakfast rolls, fruit, or coffeecake. Lamb of God will provide juice boxes, and Mount

Calvary will provide coffee and table settings. We are grateful for the opportunity to worship together in God's creation and enjoy fellowship in Christ. We hope to see you there!



Prayer Warriors Date Change

For August, Prayer Warriors is rescheduled to meet on **Wednesday, August 5 1:00-3:00** due to a conflict. The sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation during that time; you can also pray with us at home/work during this time for as long as you can. God promises in Matthew 21:22 that "whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Please pray for the many needs of our church and congregation, our family and friends, our neighborhood, community, state, country and world.



♪ Music Notes ♪

This month, Traditional Worship with organ accompaniment will take place on August 2nd. The remainder of Sundays in August will be blended worship services with piano accompaniment.

To date, there have not been any requests for special hymns or songs, or special music offerings during the summer months. Please let me know if there is any special music you would like to sing or hear!

Choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, September 13th following morning worship. Please mark your calendars, and ALL are welcome!

Blessings to all,

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



Bingo Success Story

Special Group Hug and Thank you to everyone who helped and attended our Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, July 19th. Thank you to Michele Rion and her wonderful team for their diligence. ...you know who you are. Special thanks go to the bakers and raffle baskets donated by AH members and friends. Baskets were amazing and we'll be enjoying the bake sale goodies for a few Sundays. The over \$2,800 profit will be a wonderful addition to Abiding Hope's and KAFP's coffers. Hugs for all.



Little Jesus Project: Please consider taking a "Little Jesus" from the basket under the monitor in the Narthex and leaving it in a place you will visit this week. Say a prayer for whoever finds it. Park benches, waiting rooms, gas pumps, restaurants, ATM machines, elevators, are all possibilities! Be an ambassador for Christ as you help someone 'find a little Jesus'. Blessings to you!



Used Clothing Donations Update Going forward, Analee will rotate clothing donations between Bethany, Trinity Outreach and the City Mission. The Mission's greatest need is for men's clothing in large. Please mark your donation bags with "Ladies", "Kids" or "Men's" clothing that would help Analee know where to deliver the clothing and help the receivers when they must sort the bags.

Shoes (pairs only) and medical supplies continue to be delivered to Chosen. Drop off in the Heritage Room. *Analee*

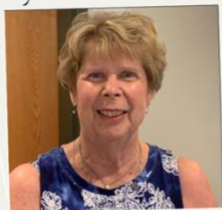


Altar Flowers: Arrangements have increased (1st time in over 15 yrs) to **\$25.00 each**. Sign-up sheet/request forms with additional information on the table in the narthex.



Sunday Morning Bible Study & Zoom Bible Study are both on hiatus while Pastor Karen recovers from shoulder surgery. Plan to join us as we resume our Sunday morning after worship Bible Study and Zoom Bible Study in September. Watch this space for information and dates.

Welcome the newest members to Abiding Hope's family of believers.



Joining on Sunday, July 19th:
Rich & Bernadette Plymyer



August Birthdays

8/3 John Litzel
8/4 Judi Pacileo 84 yrs
young
8/4 Mary Huff
8/5 Andrea Watson
8/6 June Morey
8/7 Mike Rigelman
8/15 Milo Marriotti
8/16 Carol Ann Wunch
8/27 Jerry Vogt
8/30 Julie Saska
8/30 Andrea Saska

August Anniversaries

8/12 Ron & Mary Huff 65 yrs.
8/18 Mike & Barb Paris
59 yrs.
8/18 Kevin & Andrea
Petrone 19yrs.
8/19 Rich & Cindy Filson
54 yrs.

Abiding Hope 2026 Church Council

President

Andy Saska

Vice-President

open

Secretary

Analee Cree

Treasurer

Rick Penn

Financial Secretary

Cindy Filson/Open

Council Members

Pastor Karen Parsh

Cindy Filson

Lois Kuhns

Jo Zeimet

Rich Filson

Diana Stoker

Barb Ruhlman



Thank you, Millcreek Police Dept. Abiding Hope is once again collecting water and Gatorade for the Millcreek Police Department. Let's say "Thank you" to these hard-working men and women with a bottle of cool water or Gatorade. Bring your donation to the Heritage Room before August 31st.

Learn all about our....

Bee Farm

Join us for an "un-BEE-lievable"
evening with **Cathy Vorisek**,
Outreach/Educator of
Vorisek's Backyard Bee Farm.

Monday, August 10, 2026 @ 6 PM
Faith Lutheran Church
5414 East Lake Road, Erie, PA



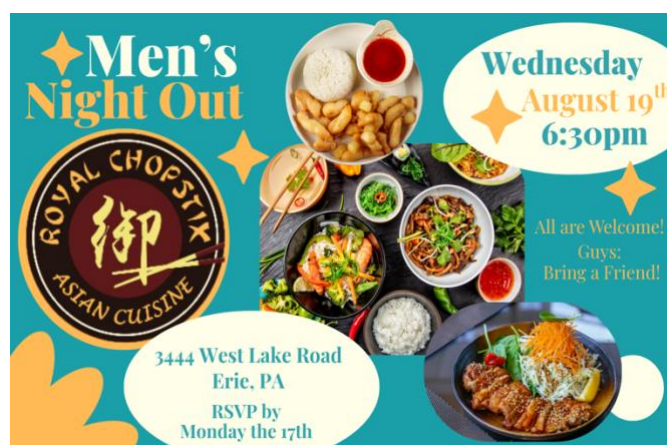
Located in Linesville, PA, this little honeybee farm primarily serves local customers and is one of the very few markets in NW PA that offer locally and domestically produced honey and hive products. Cathy will "bee" presenting on bees and the hive and will bring along hive products for purchase, including honey!

For more information:

(814) 899-9653

www.vbeefarm.com

Little Free Library: Our visitors have greatly increased this summer; many with children who select books and educational packets (a few remain from last year's generous grant). If you are shopping in the Dollar Store and can purchase a few educational 'workbooks' in the books section, donations would be greatly appreciated for new packets to be created (a 'packet' consists of a workbook, writing exercise tablet along with a box of crayons/colored pencils or pencil with sharpener—depending on the book. Bookmarks for children's books are also running low. Donations are GREATLY appreciated and can be placed in the Heritage Room's Library shelf.



Donate this Month to KAFP

Kearsarge Area Food Pantry will not be participating in ErieGives this year. Instead, we are raising funds internally throughout the month of August. Make your check out to KAFP, with "Summer" in the memo line. Or, if you donate cash, enclose in an envelope marked "KAFP/Summer". Our goal is to raise \$2,000. Thank you.

Prayer Shawl Gatherings start time has been changed to 12noon. Ladies meet 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, August 3rd and 17th (the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month).

WELCA Retreat Registration

The 2026 Retreat committee is so excited to share the online form for registration with ladies interested in attending our upcoming retreats. This year's theme is "Stop Listen Hear" with the bible verse Mark 4:23 "If you have ears to hear, then hear!" NRSVUE.

Southwestern PA Synod's website: <https://www.swpasynod.org/ministries/welca>

Online Registration form: <https://forms.gle/cbRqRFaJaDp8xpVj6>



July 14, 2026 Council Meeting Recap

A busy time of the year, yet topics still to be discussed and reviewed. Several members were absent.

- Pastor's surgery is July 21. Will need help transporting her for a minimum of 2 months. Watch for opportunities in weekly updates.
- Bishop Papson will be attending the next council meeting to discuss several topics
- Communication continues with OLP and HOA concerning the homeless population in Erie
- A motion was made and passed to accept Rich and Bernadette Plymyer as new members on July 19
- Penny Gresh submitted her resignation from council. A sad motion was made and passed to accept
- Lay ministers are in place during Pastor's recovery. Rick Penn first contact. Will be referred to ordained minister for certain issues.

Many sincere thanks to Penny for her years of serving Abiding Hope as an active council member. She has served as Vice President for many years. Financially, we were able to donate \$300 to the Gem City Music group. It was a well-attended night of music. Remember all are welcome to attend council meetings and council is open to hear and address any of your concerns. Your support in multiple ways is especially needed during Pastor's surgery and recovery.

Respectfully submitted by Analee Cree, Council Secretary with the help of Jo Zeimet

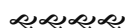


Care and Share discussion group, led by Damian Santabene, continues in August on Thursdays at 1. The group are using Max Lucado's "And the Angels were Silent". All are welcome to join this interesting and meaningful discussion group.



Financial Secretary Position Open

The position, currently held by Cindy Filson, requires computer skills and approximately 2 to 3 hours' time per week, much of it can be done from home. Training is available. Please see any council member if interested. Thank you, Cindy, for your tremendous dedication to AHLC.



AH Income History

June 28 – July 29



2026	\$10,572.85
2025	\$12,601.00
2024	\$15,007.00



August 2026

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A Loving Family, Growing in Faith, Sharing the Hope...of Christ!						1 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
2 10th Sunday after Pentecost Traditional Worship 9:30 with Sandra Troop LWL	3 Prayer Shawls 12noon Al-Anon 7:30	4 M. Lessons 4-6	5 Tops 9-11 Prayer Warriors 1-3	6 Care & Share Group 1:00pm	7	8 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
9 11th Sunday after Pentecost Blended Worship 9:30 with Barb Dennison LWL	10 Al-Anon 7:30	11 Church Council 6:30 with guest Bishop Kristen M. Lessons 4-6	12 Tops 9-11 Youth Ministry Meeting 5:30 @ Luther Memorial (pg. 9)	13 KAFP 9-11:30 Care & Share Group 1:00pm	14	15 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
16 12th Sunday after Pentecost Blended Worship 9:30 with Damian Santabene LWL Annual Picnic 11:30 Steel Drum Band Concert @ 1:30	17 Prayer Shawls 12noon Al-Anon 7:30	18 M. Lessons 4-6	19 Tops 9-11 MNO 6:30 @ Royal Chopstix	20 Care & Share Group 1:00pm LNO 5:30 @ Venango GC	21	22 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
23 13th Sunday after Pentecost Blended Worship 9:30 Rick Penn LWL	24 Newsletter deadline Al-Anon 7:30	25 M. Lessons 4-6	26 Tops 9-11	27 KAFP 9-11:30 Care & Share Group 1:00 pm	28	29 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
30 14th Sunday after Pentecost Blended Worship 9:30 with Rick Penn LWL	31 Al-Anon 7:30					



ELC

Youth Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, August 12
5:30 PM
Luther Memorial Church

Current & past confirmation teachers (pastor & lay) and parents are encouraged to attend!

Meeting Focus
Confirmation:
1. What would work well to do together?
2. What could a shared confirmation ministry look like?

Luther Memorial Church
225 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16501

ELC
Erie Lutheran Conference
Erie, PA

Youth Ministry Meeting

Erie Lutheran Conference invites you to our next youth ministry meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 5:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church, 225 W 10th St., Erie.

The focus will be confirmation: What would work well to do together? What could a shared confirmation ministry look like?

Current and past confirmation teachers (rostered and lay) and parents are encouraged to attend!



Saturday,
09. 26. 2026

Time: TBD

You're Invited to a

Progressive Dinner

Good Friends ~ Great Food ~ Fun Evening

Join the party as a single or a couple. We'll travel to 3 host houses for each course and finish up with dessert and drinks at Abiding Hope. A fun evening out with old friends and new. Sign up in the narthex.

 Abiding Hope
Lutheran Church

Annual Church Picnic with Concert

Abiding Hope's Annual Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 16th. Stay after church for a picnic lunch followed by the Flagship Steel Drum Band playing at 1:30. Hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages and table service provided. Bring a dish to share, if you like, and enjoy good food, great conversation and your favorite Caribbean tunes performed by the amazing Steel Drum Band with our own Brian Gresh conducting.



**Abiding Hope's
PICNIC & CONCERT**

Sunday, August 16th
Picnic in Fellowship Hall after worship;
Steel Drums Concert at 1:30 PM.

Hot dogs, hamburgers
beverages & table service
provided

Bring a dish to share, if
you'd like.

Bring a dish to share, if you like, and enjoy good food, great conversation and your favorite Caribbean tunes performed by the amazing Flagship Steel Drum Band with our own Brian Gresh conducting.

**Abiding Hope
Lutheran Church**
www.abidinghopeerie.org

Concert at 1:30, Lower level of Abiding Hope

Abiding Hope

Lutheran Church
2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16506

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