

Life Together



A Message from Pastor Karen

My friend could barely wait to tell me her joke...

She had just spent an evening with her high tech, sophisticated son, when disaster struck... As she tells the story:

I was visiting my son when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"For goodness' sake, Mom, this is the 21st century," he moaned. "I don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad."

He rolled his eyes as he handed me his book sized computer screen.

I smiled, a little hesitant, and said... "Whatever you say, Son... Though this might be a high-tech solution to a low-tech situation."

That's when I heard the **BZZZZZZZZ** closing in on my piece of pie... I grabbed his iPad, took aim and **THWACK!** I can tell you this, that fly never knew what hit him....

Sometimes, the old ways are the best ways. We moderns have created any number of high-tech pathways to make us smarter and more powerful. **But are we?**

Now don't get me wrong. My computer and my cell phone are essential to my way of life. But no matter how expertly operating systems are upgraded, technically generated communication will never replace face to face interaction! As connected as our tools make us feel, they are NO substitution for honest relationships between me and other people... OR between me and God.

Once, a very long time ago, people were hungry for the Word of God. Many tried to communicate with him through laws and rituals, but the standards were impossibly high and could only be achieved by the brightest and the best. Most of the people, the rejected and less-than-perfect, were forbidden entrance into God's holiest places. No matter how hard they tried, they could

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16506

www.abidinghopeerie.org/

Office email:

ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266

pastorparsh@gmail.com



Church Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 9:30 - 3:30
Wednesday 9:30 - 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

never achieve the standards demanded by their apparently aloof and angry God. Consequently, they resigned themselves to a hopeless life of drudge and despair.

Then along came Jesus...

He rejected marble floored meeting halls and rituals that separated people from God's love. He boldly walked among the unclean and the uneducated. He ate with them, healed their hurts and shared wonderful stories of salvation with anyone who had ears to hear and eyes to see. He preached the good news that God's love was not the exclusive property of the spiritual elite... it was meant for everyone.

In an extraordinary act of compassion, Jesus sat his hungry followers down among the green pastures, where he filled their hungry emptiness with God's precious Word. To a people who had come to believe that they could never be good enough, he offered hope and the promise of a God filled future. He became the true bread of life.

Jesus demonstrated that God's compassion was big enough and wide enough for everyone - THEN AND NOW!

Those of us who try to worm our way into heaven by earning a position on God's A team, relax! God's favor is a gift not a prize. There are no fads in faith or secret salvation formulas... God's grace is sufficient.

This month, get back to the basics of faith: God loves you... God desires to be in relationship with you! THWACK! Now that's the kind of High-tech connection that can really change the world!



Recap of June 11, 2024 - Council Meeting

Council continues to seek to be stronger on our commitment to our committees. A member from council is on each committee, yet a committee needs active members. This is key to any church growing and meeting the needs of the congregation and community. We need this to make this happen.

- Over 200 people attended the opening night at PACA
- July 11 @ 6:30 will be a committee meeting for every member
- Erie Gives, Tuesday, August 13, will have phone lines open from Midnight to Midnight
- Trees will be taken down by Dave Cunning
- Denise has requested a month off from September 14 through October 15
- Kitchen was cleaned by Hospitality - Sincere thanks! It looks Beautiful!!
- Synod Convention June 14-15; attended by Pastor Karen, and John and Jacque Holmberg

Please mark your calendars for July 11 and come with an open mind and heart to help steer Abiding Hope in the direction of growth and outreach in our community. The brainstorming session has set the course, let's all get together and make this ship sail.

Respectfully submitted by: Analee Cree - Council Secretary



Little Free Library and Pantry

I am pleased to share that our Little Free Library and Pantry are having a growing impact on our neighborhood! We are currently averaging about 20 visitors each week and anticipating that will grow as summer progresses. I am spreading the word through the NextDoor app that we have children's books (Elementary through High School) available as well as all genres for adults. I am proud to announce that as the steward of the library, I submitted a Little Free Library contest entry for a "children's bundle of books" donated by DK Publishing and just received notification that our library won! The books will be a great addition!

The camera showed a tired looking woman arriving at 4:15 a.m. recently; she looked so relieved to find cereal in the pantry and took several packets of oatmeal as well. Another mother took mac and cheese cups and handed three through the car window to her children's eager hands along with a book for each. A homeless woman, nicely dressed but living in her car, stops by every two days for ready to eat food and leaves prayer requests. A young man on a bike selects a granola bar, juice box and a children's book every few days. We have had several prayer requests. Visitors daily exchange books and donate books and

food items. There is so much kindness expressed in these acts! Many wave and smile at the camera when they visit!



Please pray for all those whose needs are being helped through this ministry.

We are currently in need of seasonal items that will not spoil in the box: **individually wrapped peanut butter crackers, fruit bars, granola bars with no chocolate or honey that will melt, dried fruits in individual boxes, individual bags of nuts, juice boxes, plastic jars of peanut butter or jelly, fruit cups, crackers, healthy chips, pretzels, dry cereals, oatmeal packets, pastas, rice, easy to prepare pasta meals in a box, mac and cheese.**



Inspirational bookmarks are also needed. They can be copied on a copier and cut out, handmade, or those you might receive in solicitations in the mail. If handmade, please leave a space for the Abiding Hope information label to be added. All donations are greatly appreciated, and contributions can be left in the labeled boxes in the Heritage Room.

Blessings to all who are supporting this ministry!



Prayer Warriors

Ephesians 6:18 "With all prayers and petitions pray at all times in the Spirit..."

Please mark your calendar and join us on Wednesday, July 17 for our monthly Prayer Warrior gathering. This is a time to sit in the sanctuary or Quiet Room and silently pray/ meditate for the needs of those in our congregation, our neighborhood, our community, our country, our world. Prayer is a powerful way to serve God. If you can't join us, please consider praying from wherever you are for as long as you can between 1:00-3:00.



Stories begin "once upon a time". When we hear those words, we are transported to a time when living in the world God gave us was different. The Green Team asked people to transport themselves back to an earlier time and share how life was better in terms of living more ecologically.

Many comments we received concerned the production of food.

- They did not use pesticides or herbicides in their gardens.
- Plow horses were used even when tractors were widely available.
- Home baked goods did not contain preservatives.
- Families had a cow that was milked by hand or milk was delivered in glass bottles which would be reused.
- The manure produced by farm animals was spread on the farm.
- Families composted food waste.
- Grass clippings were used to produce mulch.
- Almost every part of an animal was used when butchered.
- Meat would be canned in the absence of refrigeration.
- A meat-grinder to make their own ham salad for the family.

Most children wore hand-me-down clothes that were passed on. Clothing was made at home and new material was scarce. Animal feed sacks were washed and used to make clothes for the kids.

Churches used glass communion cups and church dinners were served on China plates with real silverware.

Several commented-on ways that we are not living green today. A woman who worked in medicine said people were encouraged to flush medicines down the toilet. Today they are collected at pharmacies or police stations and disposed. It was shared about when piles of used tires could be seen along roads. Sometimes huge smoky fires would burn for days when tires were burned. We realize now that the effects on the environment was devastating. Today's recycling of tires is good for the planet – but extra work. The same can be said about the recycling of plastics, glass, electronics and other items. Sometimes living green is more work – but much better for the environment.

Each month our Green Team publishes the "Green Corner". Many churches reproduce this in their bulletins or newsletters. To receive the "Green Corner", that comes by e-mail, please contact the Green Team nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com.

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.

Follow us on Facebook: Northwestern PA Synod Green Team-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Please NOTE: The **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE** for July will take place on the **SECOND** Sunday of the month, **July 14th**. **July 7th** will be a **Blended Worship Service**. This change is for July only. August Traditional Worship will resume on the **FIRST** Sunday of the month, August 4th.



What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?

As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that "faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society" (ELCA Social Statement on Church in Society). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join United Lutheran Seminary to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community. This [informational flyer](#) has more information, including how to register.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:

Carol Korn (shoulder surgery), Shirley Englert (broken arm), Jack (seriously ill after a fall) & Marjorie Wonner, Bill Overmoyer (broken ankle), Ed (treatment issues) & Jeanne Tropper, Evelyn Senger (eye & foot surgeries), Stephanie Voland (continues preventive Chemo thru August), Matt & Sally Zill, Don (struggling with Alzheimer's) & Donna Holder, and Pastor Karen & Dave.



An Exhibit of the Complete Sontheimer Collection~ Continues through September

Milton's paintings will be on display at the P.A.C.A. (Performing Arts Collective Alliance) Gallery, 1505 State St. Downtown Erie, until the end of September and available for purchase outright or to the highest bidders. Two wine and cheese parties were held in June and interest throughout the Erie community (and AHLC) in the paintings is high. And as Erieites attend the P.A.C.A. plays they will also be able to view and bid on these local works of art.

Come and view the Sontheimer paintings while enjoying on of the many P.A.C.A. plays this summer and bid on your favorite paintings (or purchase them outright). Or arrange a private viewing by contacting Mark Tannenbaum at 814-434-0687. For more information see the P.A.C.A. Facebook page or visit www.paca1505.org.

The Art Exhibit will not only reach thousands of potential buyers and bring Milton's talents to light, the name of Abiding Lutheran Church will also reach thousands. A blessing to be able to do both.





July 11
6:30
ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS ARE INVITED!
Have fun!
Meet new people!
Join a committee!

Committee Night ~ July 11 @ 6:30

The congregation is invited to a fun filled Mexican Committee Night @ AHLC. Come and enjoy Mexican snacks and learn about the many teams that manage our building, finances, outreach, education, worship and so much more.

Bring a Mexican snack to share (if you like) and learn about the behind-the-scenes workings of the church and join in the process.



Music Notes

We will be having guest musicians and some of our favorites from Abiding Hope sharing their talents with us this summer! On June 30th, Judi Pacileo will be singing "Rock of Ages," and Cindi Reid will play two familiar sacred favorites on the clarinet. Don't forget to come to the Hymn Sing and Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social later that afternoon at 3:00 pm!

On July 7th, Christina Murnock and friends from Our Lady of Peace church will be playing instrumental selections and accompanying our Contemporary Worship liturgy along with our guitarists and Cindi on clarinet! If you remember, the Gate of Heaven liturgy we are currently using for the Blended Services was composed by OLP's Music Director, Brian Kuzmin.

Please note that Traditional Worship will take place on the second Sunday of July for this month only! On July 14th, Kayla Miller will be singing "Salt and Light," with Howard Lyon providing special music throughout the service. On July 21, we look forward to welcoming back Sally and Matt Zill's son-in-law and granddaughter, Kris and Laura Barnes, for some beautiful piano and vocal music!

There are still a few open Sundays left for the summer months, so please do not be shy! Come share your talents with everyone!

Blessings,

Sheryl Williams ~ Coordinator of Music

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

Fall 2024 NW/SW W/ELCA Retreat
September 20 - 22, 2024 at Lutherlyn
Stir up Fellowship, Friends & Faith



This 3-day retreat for all women from the NW and SW Synods will be a fun-filled time of food, friends, faith and fellowship. Enjoy Fall at its finest at Lutherlyn with women of faith. Registration deadline is August 26, 2024. Click on link below for registration form and additional information or contact Amy Huffman at 724-783-6071.

WELCA Fall Retreat

July 2024

Abiding Hope

Calendar



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 30 Worship 9:30 World Hunger Hymn Sing/Ice Cream 3:00	1 DL to Donate Water Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	2 Ministry Team 10:30	3 Tops 9-11	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5	6 Music Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
7 Blended Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11	8 Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	9 Ministry Team 10:30 Council 6:30 M. Lessons 4-6	10 Tops 9-11	11 KAFF 9-11 All Committee Night w a Mexican Flavor 6:30	12	13 Music Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
14 Traditional Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Town Hall Mtg 11:00	15 RSVP DL for LNO Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	16 Ministry Team 10:30 Pumpkin Fest 12:30 M. Lessons 4-6 "Get Out to Vote" mtg. See Pg. 9	17 Tops 9-11 Prayer Warriors 1-3 Worship on the Lakeshore 6:30 See pg. 10	18 Ladies Night Out 5:30 @ Venango Valley Inn See pg. 10	19	20 Music Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
21 Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11	22 Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	23 Ministry Team 10:30 Music Lessons 4-6	24 Tops 9-11 Men's Night Out @6:30 @ Compadres in Edinboro See Pg. 8	25 KAFF 9-11	26	27 Music Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
28 Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11	29 Music Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	30 Ministry Team 10:30 Music Lessons 4-6	31 Tops 9-11	Aug 1	2	3 Music Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30

Sunday, June 30th is a **5th Sunday World Hunger Appeal Day**. Drop a check in the offering plate marked "World Hunger" on Sunday, June 30th and help stop world hunger. Thank you!

A Loving Family...Living the Faith, Sharing the Hope of Christ

From the Mailbox

Thanks to everyone who prayed and visited during my long recovery. Evelyn Senger.



Thank you!

Pastor Karen,

My wife and I want to thank you for the care and compassion that you showed to my mother over the past couple years. She spoke often about how much your visits meant to her. She would have greatly appreciated her celebration of life service and the inclusion of so many of her favorite hymns.

We also want to thank the women of Abiding hope for their hands-on involvement in my mother's bereavement dinner. They were all so very caring and understanding. We realize most took time out of their busy daily schedules. The food and desserts were wonderful.

Please accept this gift for similar events in the future.

Sincerely, Mark & Trina Hinkson

Shared Ministry Task Force

The recently formed Erie Lutheran Conference is asking each congregation to provide a lay representative to serve on a shared ministry task force. This task force will do research and develop recommendations /proposals for next steps in shared ministry in our conference, such as shared staffing, shared resources, shared buildings, mergers, and/or consolidations. Any recommendations would need to be considered and decided upon by each individual congregation; the task force's role will be purely informational and advisory. The team anticipates meeting monthly at a centrally located church. We want to be proactive and act from a position of strength as we plan for future mission and ministry. **If you are interested in joining this important team, see Jacque Holmberg.**

Dates To Remember

June 30 Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social 3:00 and World Hunger Appeal Day

July 1 Deadline to drop off drinks for Millcreek Police Dept.

July 4 Independence Day (Church Office closed)

July 11 ~6:30 All Committee Night

July 14 ~11:00 Town Hall Meeting

July 16 ~ 12:30 Pumpkin Fest Planning Mtg.
6:30 Worship on the Lakeshore

July 18~5:30 Ladies Night Out at Venango Valley Inn

July 24~6:30 Men's Night Out @ Compadres in Edinboro

August 12 ~ 7:00 Gem City Band Concert @AHLA

August 13 ~ All Day Erie Gives

July Birthdays

7/10 David Parsh

7/12 Matt Zill

7/17 Julie Spatara

7/22 Bob Reid

7/23 Bill Heider

7/24 Donna Holder

7/25 Janet Getson

7/27 Giovanna Baughman

7/31 Judy Nordin

July Anniversaries

7/3 Don & Donna Holder
59 yrs.

7/18 Ed & Carol Whitbred

7/19 Bob & Cindi Reid

Men's Night Out
Rescheduled for
Wednesday, July 24th @ 6:30



EDINBORO
220 W Plum St
Edinboro, PA 16412

Don't forget – donate bottled water or other beverage for Millcreek Police by July 1st.



Current Budget Update

May income	\$9,240.00	Year to Date income	\$52,241.03
May expenses	\$14,266.47	Year to Date expenses	\$58,839.22
May Difference	-\$5,026.47	Year to Date difference	-\$6,598.19
	2024 YTD Budget		\$55,935.48

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## Ways to Give to Abiding Hope through Erie Gives



### CHECK DONATION FORM

#### Online:

- Visit [ErieGives.org](http://ErieGives.org)
- Gifts will be accepted on August 13, 2024, from midnight until midnight
- Online donations can be made via credit card
- Minimum donation = \$25

#### By Phone:

- Call The Erie Community Foundation at 814.454.0843.
- Our friendly staff will answer our phone lines from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 13, 2024.
- Donations can be made by phone using your credit card
- You will have the option to cover the credit card and platform fees giving your nonprofit more dollars.

#### In Person or by mail:

- Please bring your check and the completed [Check Donation Form](#) to The Erie Community Foundation at 459 West 6th Street, before Friday, August 9, 2024.
- We will start accepting checks on July 8, 2024.
- Make sure to write a single check for the total amount payable to "The Erie Community Foundation," and the Foundation will distribute your gift to Abiding Hope or your favorite nonprofits.

- **Please note, if you give by check, there are no fees!**

#### By Mail:

- Complete the [Check Donation Form](#) indicating the nonprofit(s) you want to support and the corresponding donation amount(s).
- Write a single check for the total amount payable to "The Erie Community Foundation," and the Foundation will distribute your gift to AHLC or other nonprofits
- Mail your check and the completed [Check Donation Form](#) to The Erie Community Foundation, 459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507.

#### Gift of Stock or IRA via Mail:

- Talk to your professional advisor or banker who can help you.
- The deadline to initiate the transfer of stock or IRA distribution with your custodian directed to The Erie Community Foundation is Monday, August 12, 2024.
- Complete the [Check Donation Form](#) indicating AHLC and donation amount(s).
- Mail check and completed form to The Erie Community Foundation, 459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507
- The transfer of stock or distribution from your IRA should match the total amount you indicate on your mail-in form.

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Tuesday, July 16 @ 6:00p: Ladies of AHLC are invited to join the ladies of Anshe Hessed at **the Temple** to help address "Get Out to Vote" cards for mailing. Rabbi Morais and Pastor Karen will lead a discussion on our current political climate. Plan to attend.

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WORSHIP AT THE  
*Lakeshore*

**Wednesday, July 17-6:30 Potluck Meal-7:30 Worship**  
**Presque Isle Pine Tree Pavilion (near Beach 9)**

Sponsored by: Erie Lutheran Conference  
 All are Welcome!

*Worship on the Lakeshore*  
**Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:30 Potluck dinner ~ 7:30 Worship  
 at Presque Isle's Pine Tree Pavilion (near Beach 9)  
 Sponsored by the Erie Lutheran Conference

Bring a dish to share, your own table settings,  
 and a lawn chair. Beverages provided. After  
 worship, stroll over to the beach and enjoy the  
 sunset! Rain or Shine! The pavilion is  
 handicapped accessible.  
**All are Welcome!**





**Carpool  
leaves AH  
at 4:45**

*Ladies Night Out*

**THURSDAY, JULY 18 @ 5:30**  
**VENANGO VALLEY INN & GOLF**  
**US ROUTE 19, VENANGO, PA**

**RSVP & sign up to carpool with Jacque or  
sign up in the narthex**

*Ladies Night Out* will be  
**Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> Venango  
 Valley Inn and Golf** on Route 19 in  
 Venango at 5:30 pm. All ladies and  
 their friends are invited to this  
 monthly social event. If you need a  
 ride – or if you can drive - please let  
 Jacque Holmberg know or sign up in  
 the narthex. Carpool will leave  
 Abiding Hope parking lot at 4:45 pm  
 that evening.

May and June, 2024

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

Dear friends of Bethany,

Thank you for your clothing and household item donations to Bethany Outreach Center. As you know, deserving families and individuals in our community go without proper food, shelter, and essential medical care every day due to a variety of factors, including low wages, loss of employment, injuries, illness, age, domestic violence, or homelessness. While all of us are susceptible to hard times, children and the elderly are most at risk and they make up a large portion of the clients that we serve.

With the generous support of people like you, we are positioned to help many families and individuals not only meet their essential daily needs, but to work towards hope for life change.

For more information on how your donation is helping to make a difference in the lives of so many in our community, we invite you to visit our website at [www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org](http://www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org). You can also find information there on our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you again, and we look forward to having your continued support.

Yours in a better community,  
 Mabel Howard ~  
 Executive Director



Dear Abiding Hope Church family,

Thank you so much for your generous gift. It means so much to my family and I that you collected a love offering to help ease the financial burden of my medical treatments. Your gift was timely and very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support and companionship in the body of Christ. Your presence with us in this strange and disorienting season reminds us that Jesus walks with us and promises never to leave or forsake.

With just 4 chemotherapy treatments to go, we look back at all that has happened and are amazed at God's faithfulness. You, dear church, are a tangible expression of His love and care. May God bless you!

With love, and great appreciation for your kindness,

**Stephanie and family**