

---

# Monthly Newsletter

April 2024



2402 W GRANDVIEW BLVD ERIE PA

## A Message from Pastor Karen

Here's a little trivia quiz meant to get you thinking...

Where did the Easter Bunny come from?

1. A 20th century symbol dreamed up by Hallmark
2. A Middle Ages Christian symbol that stood for farming and rebirth
3. An American literary symbol from Uncle Remus

And the answer.... None of the above. The bunny was actually a beloved fertility icon used by pagans long before Christ was born.

When I was growing up, I never questioned Mom's tales of the Easter Bunny, even though some were kind of strange. I learned that if I played along with her stories of fluffy pink rabbits and neon eggs, I was sure to get a basket loaded with chocolates and peanut butter cups. Worth it!!!

Some of Mom's traditions actually pointed to Christ... One was a hollow sugar egg, with a peep hole onto a miniature world. Inside that sugary egg were tiny flowers, houses, smiling children, and of course, rabbits. Actually, that miniature garden is a metaphor for the message of Easter. Imagine a new world, in which resurrection has already occurred. Imagine a place of perfect peace and joy.

But before imagining such a perfect world... First, we need to imagine Jesus' journey to Calvary... That's just what the Gospel of Mark does. After vivid descriptions of Good Friday's terror... After gut wrenching images of the gore of the cross... Mark paints glorious images of the empty tomb and of hope reborn.

Mark tells how Jesus' friends arrived to anoint his body, only to discover that the stone had been rolled away. Fearing the worst, they peered in and were startled to encounter – not a dead body, but a man who tries to calm their fears, "Do not be alarmed – he isn't here – he has been raised – go tell Peter that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee." That's where their homes are. That's where their families are waiting... That's where their memories are filled with comforting images of work and play and together time. No wonder the risen Lord promises to meet them where memories are rich and where they need him the most!

The miracle of Easter is simply this: In the dark of the night, when we think all is lost... Christ comes to us, breathing new life and hope and love - whenever and wherever we may happen to be. And though we might be overwhelmed or awestruck or even thunderstruck... We are not to be afraid. The love that he offers overcomes whatever obstacle stands to bar the way. Nothing... Not even DEATH can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Dave and I wish each of you an Easter full of hope and the promise of Christ touching our lives and our hearts. God Bless!



*Pastor Karen*

---



## Meet Beher Ghosheh Ph.D - Wed April 10th @ 12 noon

If you think that immigration challenges are limited to southwestern United States, Dr. Beher Ghosheh has a worldwide perspective on this subject. This is not a political talk, but rather an examination of a worldwide phenomena.

Dr. Baher Ghosheh holds a Ph.D. in Economic Development from SUNY-Buffalo and has been a Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, cultural and economic Geography at Edinboro University since 1989.

A native of Jerusalem, Dr. Ghosheh has lived in eight countries, traveled to fifty-nine countries, and has taught in Japan, China, Russia, Italy, and Morocco.

He has authored one book, book chapters or Russia and the Middle East and 60+ articles on the Middle East, Asia, and Japan.

He was awarded a Fulbright to conduct research in Malaysia and Singapore and was selected as the Pennsylvania Geographer of the Year and Edinboro University & Educator of the Year. He serves on the JES board of trustees.

Meet this remarkable speaker on Wednesday, April 10th and grow in your understanding of the world immigration phenomenon.



### “It takes a Village”

"It takes a Village" The Easter Flock Committee could not be more thankful for the "Village" of Abiding Hope members. How beautiful and thankful to have so many members volunteer their time, their talent and treasure. From the thoughtful, wonderful raffle baskets to the dedication of meeting for months, to decorating, cleaning up and most of all Sharing the Love of Christ and his message. Know that because of you, lives were touched, smiles were plentiful and Abiding Hope Lutheran Church was on their lips and in their hearts.



**21 Nov 2024**

From Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: "...thanking God for you each day, for it is through your gracious and generous giving of time, talents, and treasures that the people of the Little Italy neighborhood are provided meals on weekly basis, as well as the monthly "Last Thursday Sloppy Joe Dinners." Our Lord exhorts us to "Feed my Sheep." At Holy Trinity, the weekly Tuesday evening dinners, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday lunches, and the (monthly) Thursday dinners make almost 8,000 meals (per year)." (Volunteers always welcome to help with preparation, serving and cleanup!) Abiding Hope's scheduled serving date for 2024 is November 21. Please plan once again to support this important community ministry. Thanks. – Jacque



## Milton's Work

The Art Committee has completed cleaning, photographing, and categorizing thee over 200 paintings by Milton Stettheimer. Watch for details on Art Events coming this fall. [Click here to view the paintings.](#)



## Prayer Warriors

Prayer Warriors will meet Wednesday, April 17 and we encourage the congregation to join us in prayer for any part of the 1:00-3:00 time in the sanctuary, or from home/work. We pray for our Pastor, our congregation, our neighborhood, our community, our nation, and our world...

## Special Dates

### April Birthdays

4/1 Brett Woomer  
4/8 Miles Woomer  
4/8 Sheryl Williams  
4/15 Esther Klakamp  
4/19 Luke Runyan  
4/28 Ellie Cherpak

### April Anniversaries

4/1 Paul & Priscila Mirone  
4/2 Don & June Morey  
4/9 Ken & Pat Wenzel-Smith  
4/19 Jerry & Connie Kerr-Vogt  
4/22 Dave & Pastor Karen Parsh



On March 26th friends and family said goodbye to Helen (Skip) Kleckner at a lovely service and luncheon at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church. To see the complete obituary [Click Here](#)



Thank you, AHLC

Cody's Wheels of Hope would like to thank the members of the Easter Flock team for inviting us to participate in the event. We gave out pinwheels, airplanes, and candy to the kids. We thank everyone for the donations we received, also.

Thank You!  
Cindy Filson

## The First Annual Day of Learning - Saturday, 4 May 2024

The NWPA Synod invites everyone to this event at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Erie. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Teresa Smallwood, the ULS James Franklin Kelly and Hope Eyster Kelly Associate Professor of Public Theology. The theme of the day will be focused on Dr. Smallwood's deep interest in public theology.

Synod staff is still developing the day's events; schedule will be something like 9-3. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.



---

## March Church Council Recap

We are blessed to have many wonderful outreach events going on at Abiding Hope. This is due to our caring congregation and bringing ideas to your Church Council. We had a full member attendance and covered a lot of ground.

- We are in need of a member to lead the Stewardship committee due to Jacque Holmberg resigning. Sincere thanks to Jacque for her many years of putting her heart and soul into this committee.
- Motion made and passed to accept Bob and Cindi Reid as new members.
- Due to recent upsetting treatment of our little library, a motion was made and passed to add a camera and contact the Millcreek Police Department, since it is happening at night and abuse.
- Motion made and passed to accept a contract with Cross/Schultz landscaping for April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. This should save us approximately \$1,500 a year.
- Keep May 19 open for a Meet your Council and New Members celebration after the service. Motion to update membership list based on Synod guidelines that state must contribute and commune once a year.

Respectfully submitted by: Analee Cree - Council Secretary

## NWPA Synodical Women's Organization - Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (W/ELCA)

Ladies Night Out! is what might first come to mind when we think of a women's group in our congregation. But we are actually part of a larger group, W/ELCA. And, as such, we are invited to participate in additional activities.

April 6~(RSVP by Apr 1) Erie City Mission presentation and tour, Bible Study, a brief but hearty W/ELCA business meeting, and general offering.  
Erie Region Spring Gathering from 1 – 3 pm.

May 10-11~NWPA Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) Annual Convention at Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, PA.

Jun 14-15~NWPA Synod Assembly at Thiel College.

Sep 20-22~NW/SW Retreat at Lutherlyn.

Some money is earmarked for Social Justice initiatives and Community outreach activities through the Women Empowering Women service grant program. (\$300 to be awarded within the Erie Conference.) Your application and approval by the Grant Committee is required.

Thank you to Pat Bellingham for faithfully leading our synodical women's group for these past years.

If you need additional information about these events, please see the NWPA SWO WELCA Newsletter posted in the narthex at church, or call Jacque Holmberg.

---

---

## Lutherlyn CampBlast!

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

FREE! RAIN OR SHINE! Awesome indoor and outdoor activities!

Campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, pony rides, zipline, bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, hayrides, games, sports, archaeology, disc golf, jump pillow tours, great food, worship, and MORE!

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer.

- 11:00 am – Join Us for Worship and re-dedication of the Steinger Memorial Amphitheater
- Noon - 3:00 pm – FREE Lunch served in the Dining Hall
- Noon - 4:00 pm – TONS of ACTIVITIES!! (detailed schedule will be available)

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



**Visit / Tour** **HURRY HILL FARM**

**Thursday, May 2nd**  
(Rain date Monday, May 6th)  
**11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Plan to tour Hurry Hill Farm with AHLC friends and enjoy a 3-hour tour of the farm, sugar house and museum. Jan Woods will demonstrate and we will all participate in the making of maple syrup. We will be transported by wagon or walking to trail to the sugar house. A tour of the Maple Syrup Museum, which houses the Newbury Award for *Miracles on Maple Hill* by Virginia Sorensen is included.

**Bring a brown bag lunch**

**And bring a friend or 2. All are welcome! RSVP today.**

**Tour cost: \$10 - Sign up in the narthex**

**Suggested reading, *Miracles on Maple Hill*, can be purchased at AHLC for only \$10**

**Abiding Hope Lutheran Church**  
2402 W Grandview Blvd.  
814 868 8685



## CURRENT FINANCES

MARCH INCOME	\$11,183.00	YEAR TO DATE INCOME	\$29,473.89
MARCH EXPENSES	\$11,311.03	YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	\$34,125.98
MARCH DIFFERENCE	-\$128.03	YEAR TO DATE DIFFERENCE	-\$4,652.09
		YTD BUDGET	\$33,491.36

*Thank you for reading!*

---

# APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>HAPPY EASTER</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Ministry Team 10:30	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Don Kleckner's funeral 11	<b>6</b> WELCA @ City Mission 1PM
<b>7</b> Worship 9:30 / new members Bible Study 11 Choir 9 & 11	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Ministry Team 10:30  Church Council 6:30	<b>10</b> Lunch & Listen 12	<b>11</b> KAFP 9-11	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship 9:30 Town Hall 11 Choir 9 & 11	<b>15</b> IRS Tax Day RSVP for Ladies Night Out	<b>16</b> Ministry Team 10:30	<b>17</b> Prayer Warrior's 1-3	<b>18</b> Ladies Night Out @ The Colony 5:30	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir 9 & 11	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b> Ministry Team 10:30  Passover	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> KAFP 9-11	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Men's Night Out 6:30
<b>28</b> Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11 Choir 9 & 11	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Ministry Team 10:30	<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>2</b> Hurry Hill Tour 11-2	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Day of Learning



**Lunch AND Listen** Speaker Series  
Wednesday, May 8 @ 12:00  
Brown Bag Lunch, at 12 noon  
Speaker 12:30 to 1:30

**Meet Doug Luthringer**  
eBay made easy! Is your house full of STUFF? Would you like to learn how to sell it on eBay?  
Or  
Would you like someone else to do it for you?  
Doug Luthringer, the owner of "Thefastmall Selling Services LLC," will take us through every step either way. Join us as he shares 18 years of experience in the fascinating world of eBay.

Bring a sandwich, have a cup of good Lutheran coffee, (we'll provide the cookies). Hear from a wide range of folks with a story to tell and the willingness to tell it.

**Abiding Hope Lutheran Church**  
2402 W Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA  
814-868-8685  
www.abidinghopeerie.org

All are Welcome  
It's Free

**Generosity Encouraged.** Thank you, God, for your many gifts to us.

"And God is able to provide you (us) with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you (we) may share abundantly in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8



**Please pray for:** Family & Friends of Donald & Helen “Skip” Kleckner, Diane Farnsworth, Shirley Englert, Pat Kerr, Trudy Mueller, Maury Allen, Matt & Sally Zill, Jerry & Connie Vogt, Don Holder, Stephanie Volland and family, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Ruth Hinkson, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Tammy Sharp McIntyre, and Evelyn Senger.



**Abiding Hope Lutheran Church**

2402 W Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16506

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

Pastor Karen Parsh  
Cell: 814-881-3266  
[pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday 9:30 -3:30  
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



**Erie Conference Ascension Service, May 9, 2024, 7:00 at Luther Memorial**

If you can sing in the combined choir for this service, please contact Luther Memorial at [nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org) before the May 1st deadline.



Don Kleckner joined his beloved wife of 73 years on April 2nd at the age of 93. He was remembered at a lovely service at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church on April 6th. To see the complete obituary [CLICK HERE](#)

*As we all know a \$1 doesn't buy much, yet it can make a big difference when the **Kearsarge Food Pantry** is buying food to help feed those in need. The cost of everything rising, our Food Pantry is seeing more families struggling to keep up with the need. If each member would contribute a minimum of \$1 per week, the impact would enable our Food Pantry to purchase healthier food and touch hungry lives. Please consider joining this commitment of at least \$1 per week to help feed others.*

## Why we need Easter

The resurrection declares that the cross was a victory, not a defeat. The deepest meanings of the resurrection have to do with new creation, God's new world brought to birth. When Jesus emerged, transformed, from the tomb on Easter morning, it was the first day of God's new week, the moment of sunrise after the long night... The resurrection of Jesus means that the present time is shot through with great significance. What is done for the glory of God in the present is genuinely building for God's future. Acts of justice and mercy, the creation of beauty and the celebration of truth, deeds of love and creation of communities of kindness and forgiveness —these all matter, and they matter forever.

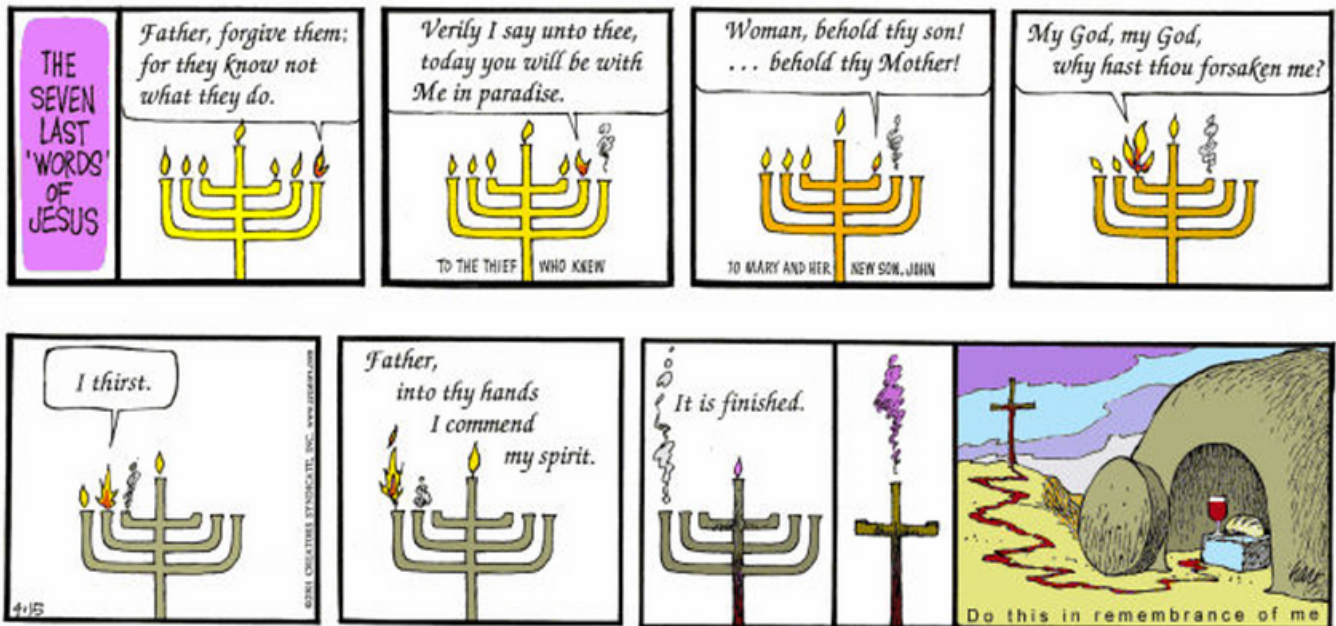
N. T. Wright

The Meaning of Jesus

No one is exempt from tragedy or disappointment — even God was not exempt. Jesus offered no immunity, no way out of the unfairness, but rather a way through it to the other side. Just as Good Friday demolished the instinctive belief that this life is supposed to be fair, Easter Sunday followed with its startling clue to the riddle of the universe. Out of the darkness, a bright light shone. ...

The cross of Christ may have overcome evil, but it did not overcome unfairness. For that, Easter is required, a bright clue that someday God will restore all physical reality to its proper place.

—Philip Yancey, *Disappointment With God*



*A Loving Family...  
Living the Faith.  
Sharing the Hope...  
of Christ!*