

# Life Together



## A Message from Pastor Karen

Yesterday, I walked into the kitchen four times before I remembered I was on a mission to get a dog biscuit for Delilah. Today, I started to write a thank you note, but couldn't remember who I was supposed to send it to... Last week, I discovered I unwittingly destroyed a pocketful of phone numbers in the washing machine. Those people are still waiting for me to call them back...



Our dear son, Gregory, who once specialized in Alzheimer's research at Western Psyche (he was the rat wrangler for research scientists... as well as the one who administered cognitive tests to assess memory loss...), gladly informs me that he spends his career talking to patients who act like me... Of course, I like to remind him that I have a lot on my mind, especially now that Dave's health issues have become more serious.... Nobody is perfect.

But facts are facts; there are consequences to the aging process. With each passing year, it is more and more apparent that bones ache whenever the weather changes, memory cells lose their razor's edge and once slim-trim figures acquire Pooh-Bear dimensions.

Everything is passing. Seasons turn. Stories end. Vegetables rot. Change leaves us with a tough choice! Either we drive ourselves crazy trying to cling to what has been, or we welcome our newly emerging selves with hope and humor and confidence that God chooses to walk along with us – and love us – whether we age gracefully or catastrophically.

Just think, as you read this article, you are younger than you will ever be. Don't lose another second of the precious present by clinging to the past and the way things could have been. There is grace and new discoveries to be made in each moment of our lives... and in the lives of those we love.

Have courage, my friends... Treasure the past; but remember that what was is but a shadow. What will be — will be... God – in his love for all creation continues to laugh with us – to weep with us... and yes, to continue to use us as his hands and voice in a world that continually grows more complicated.

Cont. on page 2

## Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd  
Erie, PA 16506  
814.868.8685

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

Office email:

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



## Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266

[pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)

## Church Hours:

Office:

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: position open

**"Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made:  
Our times are in His hand  
Who says, "A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half;  
Trust God: see all, and do not be afraid!"**

All of life's multiple stages are tucked safely in God's mighty hands. So trust... Believe... Let go and Let God! He promises to be present in our lives, regardless of our age, mental or physical condition. God's love knows NO boundaries!

\*\*\* This is an article I used about 15 years ago. BUT... I couldn't agree more... even though my life has so dramatically changed. God has blessed me and Parsh with a story book saga of love and adventure... Our 48 years have been an amazing adventure given to us – straight from the heart of God- and we both feel as blessed as we did when our journey began.



**Please keep in your prayers:** The family and friends of Judy Nordin. Also, members and friends: Monica MacKellar, Terry Dunn, Joy Reed, Trish Cirillo, Shirley Englert, Karen Shick, Joy, Elliott Marriotti, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Don Holder, Jr., Bob McDaniel, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Ron Froess, Kathi Sinnott, Don & Donna Holder, Judy Johnston, and requests from the Little Library.



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



## **From Our Walls to Yours...**

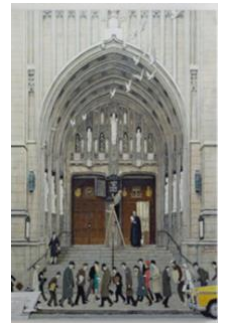
Get ready for one of our most fun events of the year... a silent auction featuring some favorite pieces of art – gently enjoyed and now ready for a new home.

There are wood carvings, canvas florals and nature prints, final selections from the Sontheimer collection, paintings of animals and people... and an exceptional selection of religious art. Of course, anything you bring in will only add to the fun.

We already have about 100 pieces of art and will expand the collection as you bring in your donations.

All proceeds will be used to support Abiding Hope building maintenance.

All art needs to be brought in by September 14 during office hours or on Sunday. For Abiding Hope members and their guests, displays will be available for viewing and bids accepted Friday, September 19, 5-8pm; for the community Saturday, Sept 20, 1-4pm. Final bids will be accepted Sunday Sept 21, 12n-3p. Successful buyers will then be determined, contacted and arrangements made for picking up items.



# Bethesda Foundation for Children Quick Fact Sheet

*Empowering Youth. Strengthening Families. Building Futures.*

Bethesda Lutheran Services is a faith-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children, youth, and families through trauma-informed care, education, and supportive services. For many years, we have served the region with compassion, dignity, and a commitment to long-term success for those we serve.

Our Mission is to provide a continuum of care that nurtures hope, healing, and growth for children, youth, and families facing significant life challenges.

Our Core Programs:

- **Right Start Program**

Residential support for teen mothers and their children, offering parenting education, life skills training, and pathways to independence.

- **Transitional Housing (New Initiative)**

Adjacent to the Right Start home, this next phase offers more independent housing for young mothers while continuing support and development opportunities.

- **Behavioral Health Services**

Outpatient and school-based mental health services, providing therapy, psychiatric care, and trauma-informed support to youth and families.

- **Alternative Education Programs**

Customized learning environments that support students with emotional or behavioral challenges, ensuring educational success and personal development.

- **Residential Treatment Services**

Short-term, structured care for youth needing intensive support to stabilize and transition successfully back to family or community settings.

## Community Impact (2024 Snapshot)

- **Over 300 youth and families served annually**
- **90% of Right Start participants achieve personal and parenting goals**
- **Dozens of local partnerships with schools, courts, and agencies**
- **Proven outcomes in behavioral health improvement and family reunification**



**Receiving Communion during Worship:** 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.



**Prayer Warriors:** Please join us on **Wednesday, September 17 from 1:00-3:00** for intercessory prayer. This is a time set aside monthly for silence/meditation/intercessory prayer for our church/neighborhood/community/country/world. Prayers can be offered from wherever you are during this time; the sanctuary is also open for your use. **James 5:16:** "Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

## Pajama Party at the Parsh home

First, it wasn't a typical pajama party because no one was in pajamas. It was Barb Ruhlman, Pastor Karen and me. Following Ladies Night Out at Syd's Place, Pastor suggested "It's a long drive to Meadville, so, stay at my house, I have a fun thing for us to do. Let's put together this "thingy" and it will be fun." This "thingy" said "some assembly required" and "you will need two people for the job." I feel, of the three of us, I am the least mechanical. I opted out to be the "holder-upper person". Barb, being the most agile of our group, became the builder. Karen was trying to interpret the directions as the parts - many parts including hardware - were numbered. Barb dumped out the hardware into a bowl; there were lots of screws and bolts and other sundry items and a little silver tool. I held things up when necessary and pastor dutifully read the directions while Barb did all the fastening. Can you begin to see who the hero of this story is? Barb is incredible; she can sit on her knees and assemble using the silver tool in tight places. Karen and Barb made a great team, and I held things up. Three hours later (with some liquid refreshment from Karen), we had assembled a lovely cart to hold "stuff" in Karen's hall. I think Barb and I learned our lesson; perhaps we shouldn't show up for pastor's pajama parties. Strangely, there is a whole dish of hardware left over! I'm not sure what that means... Judi Pacileo



**Little Free Library & Pantry News:** Due to the extremely hot days of August, pantry food was removed from the Little Pantry for food safety reasons. On cool days, the food will be replaced to offer our neighbors/community. Currently, no additional food is needed due to the church and neighborhood generosity.

The library has regular visitors who exchange/donate books, and this ministry is successfully working as designed! A woman recently returned a book while it was being replenished; she gratefully expressed her appreciation of the library in our neighborhood, which was heartwarming to hear!

Remember—YOU can also take advantage of the library! There are so many interesting books for all ages! Families have especially increased visits this summer, and workbooks for reading/math/writing have been very popular with children. Someone donated a beautiful set of classic hardback books which are also making the rounds! Blessings to all who have made this outreach possible!



**October 22 – Boscov's Friend and Family Day:** Circle this date on your calendar. I will have the coupons for \$5 that save you 25% all day on almost everything in the store, even sale items. (And Abiding Hope gets the \$5.) - Analee Cree



**Little Jesus Outreach:** There is a basket in the Narthex under the tv monitor filled with "Little Jesus" figurines for your use—please take as many as you would like to place in public areas and pray for the person who may "find Jesus" due to your efforts! Popular places to leave these figurines are elevators, stairways, park benches, waiting rooms, restaurants, coffee shops. If you have any interesting experiences, please share with Pastor Karen!

## Church Council Recap of August 12 meeting

First, thank you to Penny for opening her home to the council meeting. We enjoyed the comfort of her patio and hospitality.

1. With our new Bishop soon to be installed, Lamb of God and Mt. Calvary are seeking a replacement and our support during this transition.
2. Open discussion about the Ministry Group and what is the biggest purpose at Abiding Hope. "Preach the gospel and visit the sick."
3. A motion was made and passed to transfer \$5,000 from the Investment Fund to Current to help cover expenses.
4. A motion made and passed to accept the resignation of Kayla Miller as our sexton.
5. Looking at ways to save on our insurance both for the building and pastor.

Our church continues to be an active, caring, family of Christ. Our hope and goal is to have our committees keeping us on track and involve all members.

Respectfully Submitted by: *Analee Cree*-Council Secretary



### Crop Walk ~ September 28<sup>th</sup>

#### JOIN US FOR OUR 50TH YEAR OF ENDING HUNGER!

We are walking for neighbors who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world! Join us in this special 50th Anniversary Celebration that supports Kearsarge Food Pantry and Second Harvest Food Bank. The walk is September 28<sup>th</sup> at one o'clock

at Beach One. No amount is too small. Each youth that participates will receive a free T-Shirt. Adults can purchase a t-shirt for \$12.00 or a long-sleeve t-shirt for \$13 and sweatshirts are \$19. Please see Analee to donate or sign-up to walk. Donations can also be put in the offering, noted *Crop Walk* or donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/eriepa>. Come walk with us, collect from neighbors and friends and help keep people fed.



## Important Documentary Film & Discussion

On Saturday, September 20 at 4:00 p.m. the Luther Memorial Concert Series, in association with the Jefferson Educational Society, is hosting a showing of the documentary film "Matt Shepard is a friend of mine", followed by conversation with the producer, Linda Karn, and special guests Judy and Dennis Shepard, Matt's parents. After Matt's murder, his parents became LGBTQ advocates and established the Matthew Shepard Foundation. [Home - Matthew Shepard Foundation](#)

The event is **free** and open to the public. Scan the QR code for a link to tickets, which are required for attendance.

Pastor Jean Kuebler  
Erie Conference Dean &  
Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor Karen plans on attending this important program and would like to encourage you to join her.





## Gently Used Shoes & Boots & Clothing Needed.

The Mission Team continues to collect gently used shoes and boots of all sizes for **Chosen**, an International Ministry sharing the Love of Christ. **Bethany Outreach** continues to receive our weekly donations of clothing and household items. Please drop off your donations in the Heritage Room.



**KAFP Update:** The Food Pantry is beginning a new program this month. We are asking AHLC, New Hope and Temple Anshe Hased members to each bring 1 specified food item each month to provide every family with the food item. Make a note: Items requested for the next 4 months are:

September.... Pasta or 2# bags of white or brown rice

October.... Cream of Mushroom or Celery soup

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

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

On August 7th KAFP received a new commercial freezer which will happily provide needed freezer storage for more free food made available at times from local stores. KAFP will use the over \$1,200 in Erie Gives donations and is hoping to be able to apply future donations to pay for the much-needed purchase. *Rich Filson* - KAFP



## Members + Generosity = School Supplies

Two overflowing laundry baskets of school supplies were collected to be delivered to Bethany Outreach of Erie and Bethesda of Meadville. Your kindness will help many students achieve a successful school year.

Bottled water and sports drinks were also donated to quench the thirst of our Millcreek Police dept. **Thank you for your generosity!**



Sept 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 1pm:  
Damian's new discussion group  
Sept 17-6:30 Men's Night Out @ Golden Wok  
Sept 18-5:30 Ladies Night Out @ Cheddar's  
Sept 28: Crop Walk@Presque Isle  
Oct 19: Bishop installed in Oil City  
Oct 22: Boscov's Coupon Day

## September Birthdays

9/1 Dan Kaeberlein  
9/2 Kim Paris  
9/6 Brian Gresh  
9/6 Penny Carlisle  
9/7 Carolyn Mariotti  
9/8 Olivia Paris  
9/10 Weston Bucci  
9/15 Damian Santabene  
9/19 Ryan Carlisle  
9/25 Dick Stoker  
9/25 Bradley Ng  
9/26 Brenda Huth  
9/26 Lois Kuhns  
9/26 Diana Stoker  
9/26 Wesley Paris  
9/27 Eileen Camarata  
9/29 Barb Paris

## Sept Anniversaries

9/2 Don & Marion Fuller  
75 yrs.  
9/4 Bill & Irene Overmoyer  
31 yrs.  
9/20 Dick & Diana Stoker  
56 yrs.  
9/23 Bill & Janet Getson  
9/24 Brian & Jennifer Ng  
20 yrs.  
9/27 Damian & Marcia Santabene ~ 50 yrs.

## A Farewell Letter from our Bishop

*This life therefore is not righteousness,  
but growth in righteousness,  
not health, but healing, not being but becoming,  
not rest but exercise.  
We are not yet what we shall be,  
but we are growing toward it,  
the process is not yet finished,  
but it is going on, this is not the end,  
but it is the road.  
All does not yet gleam in glory,  
but all is being purified. – Martin Luther*

Dear Synod,

Presiding Bishop Eaton in her farewell remarks at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly said it best. "Thank you, is too simple..." Yet, thank you embodies my gratitude towards you our laity and rostered of our synod. I have had the deep joy of leading us together over these last six years. I will admit when you called me in 2019 to be the third bishop I was overwhelmed and did not feel up to holding this office. I appreciate the gift of your trust as I lived into the office and this leadership role in our church.

In my time I have tried to be open and honest with you regarding the challenges of being church together in our part of God's creation. Together we have weathered the COVID pandemic and together we have struggled with new technology. Together we have prayed for one another in times of health crisis and the joys of new life. Together we heard the Word and feasted on the Word. Together we have prayed for the work of the Spirit to lift up new leaders in our synod and across our church.

Luther's words remind us "We are not yet what we shall be" but growing and journeying towards what is to be in the fullness of time. I will hold you all in my prayers as you and Bishop-elect Papson begin your journey together.

Called to Serve, Bp. Michael L. Lozano



The Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly was held in June and elected **Rev. Kristen Papson** as our fourth bishop. Her term in office starts on September 1, 2025, and her installation as bishop is October 19, 2025, 3:30 p.m. at Good Hope Lutheran in Oil City. (See bus trip information, page 9.) She transitions from the role of pastor to Mt. Calvary and Lamb of God to bishop of NWP.

### AHLC Committees

#### Ministers

All the members of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

#### Pastor

Pastor Karen Parsh 814-881-3266

#### Church Council

Andy Saska 814-450-5620

#### Ministry Team

Pastor Karen Parsh 814-881-3266

#### Thrivent Financial

The Holmberg's 814-490-4470

#### Worship & Music

Paul Mirone 814-790-8825

Sheryl Williams 814-882-2830

#### Outreach

Analee Cree 814-397-6168

Diana Stoker 814-882-3331

#### Finance

Michele Rion 814-449-3263

Cindy Filson 814-833-6875

#### Little Library & Youth

Connie Kerr Vogt 814-403-2885

#### Prayer Warriors

Jerry Vogt 814-504-3566

#### Office

Denise Miller 814-868-8685

#### Property

Andy Saska 814-450-5620

#### Hospitality

Carolyn Hayes 814-464-3625

#### Care Team

Jacque Holmberg 814-490-4470

#### KAFP

Rich Filson 814-460-8229

#### Adult Education

Pastor Karen Parsh 814-881-3266

#### Altar Care

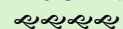
Analee Cree 814-397-6168

Nancy Cunning 814-833-3109

#### Communications

Nancy Cunning 814-833-3109

Lon Jenkins 814-790-8225



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



As the world faces growing environmental challenges like waste disposal, air pollution, and climate change, schools can play a role in conserving the planet. By adopting sustainable practices schools can not only contribute to conserving the environment but set an example and teach the future generations in their care sustainable practices.

How can schools help with these challenges? How might we help? As a parent or community member work with your local school personnel and encourage them to:

- Organize classroom projects where students collect recyclable materials to create art or functional items. And practice recycling in all areas of the school: plastic, cans, paper.
- Encourage children and staff to switch off all appliances and lights when not in use. Can your local school install solar panels? Are they using efficient lighting, heating and air conditioning?
- Encourage students and staff to properly shut-off water sources and report dripping spigots.
- Institute "Share Tables" in the cafeteria, where students may return unused items, they choose not to eat. Offer these items to other students, during the lunch period or after school.
- Develop a procedure for composting school cafeteria food scraps, for use in neighborhood or school gardens. Encourage school gardens with food grown to be used in the cafeteria.
- Work with your school to eliminate single-use and disposable items in the cafeteria, such as Styrofoam, straws, single-use water bottles and plastic utensils. Encourage use of milk cartons and juice boxes that can be recycled.
- Offer opportunities for students to participate in community clean-up events, planting PA native activities, and other initiatives that promote environmental conservation.
- Organize outdoor learning sessions, such as science classes held in school gardens and other ecological processes in a real-world context.

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.

Like and follow us on Facebook:

Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Special Thank you from Barb Ruhlman:** Thank you all (especially the wonderful ladies who oversaw the lovely meal after my husband's funeral service). Kudos to you all – you're greatly appreciated.

God bless you all. X O X  
Barb Ruhlman

## Sign up for the Bus Ride to the Bishop's Installation

in Oil City on Sunday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. The Erie Lutheran Conference has arranged for two school buses with professional drivers to transport folks to and from Bishop Papson's Installation Service, Oct. 19, 3:30 p.m. at Good Hope Lutheran in Oil City. Buses will leave Faith Lutheran (5414 E. Lake Rd) at 1:00 p.m. and Luther Memorial (225 W. 10<sup>th</sup>) at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per person, payable on departure. Space is limited to 52 people per bus. To reserve your seat, sign up on the sheet in the narthex or email [faithlepastor@gmail.com](mailto:faithlepastor@gmail.com). Deadline: October 12<sup>th</sup>.










# September 2025 Abiding Hope Calendar



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 31 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 World Hunger Sunday	1 Office closed 	2 Ministry Team 10:30  M Lessons 4-6	3 Tops 9-11	4  1pm: Damian's new Discussion group	5	6  M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
7 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost with Traditional music Worship 9:30 Choir and Picnic 11:00	8  Prayer Shawls 10-12  M. Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	9 Ministry Team 10:30  Church Council 6:30 M Lessons 4-6	10 Tops 9-11	11  KAFP 9-11:30  1pm: Damian's Discussion group	12	13  M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
14 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Pulpit Exchange Rev Ralph Mineo Worship 9:30 Choir 11:00	15 RSVP for MNO  M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	16 Ministry Team 10:30  RSVP for LNO M Lessons 4-6	17 Tops 9-11  Prayer Warriors 1 to 3  MNO 6:30 @ Golden Wok	18 1pm: Damian's new discussion group Ladies Night Out 5:30 @ Cheddars	19	20 M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30  Luther Memorial Concert Series 4p "Matt" see pg. 5
21 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Choir 11:00 Final Auction Bids 12noon-3pm (Pg. 5)	22  Prayer Shawls 10-12  M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	23 Ministry Team 10:30  M Lessons 4-6	24 Tops 9-11  DL Newsletter	25  KAFP 9-11:30  1pm: Damian's Discussion group	26	27 Damian & Marcia Santabene's 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Celebration M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
28 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Worship 9:30 Choir 11:00 Crop Walk 1:00 (see pg. 5)	29  M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	30 Ministry Team 10:30  M Lessons 4-6	<div>Silent Art Auction Dates to Remember Donations received by Sept 14 Displayed for AH members Fri Sept 19-5-8pm Displayed for community Sat Sept 20-1-4pm Final bids Sunday Sept 21-12n -3pm Successful buyers contacted on Sept 21</div>			
<div>Our Mission Statement: A Loving Family, Growing in Faith, Sharing the Hope of Christ!</div>						

## Anniversary Celebration ~ Sunday, August 24th

On the 24<sup>th</sup> we celebrated with a special worship service featuring tributes to our founding fathers and mothers by Analee Cree and Damian Santabene. Worship was followed by a traditional picnic, and the blessing of our church building by Pastor Jay Mitchell of Luther Memorial.



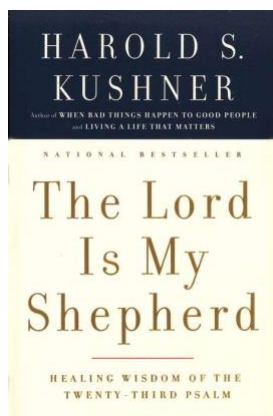
At 1:30, attendees and the community were entertained by the Flagship Steel Drum Band with many Abiding Hope members and under the direction of our very own, Brian Gresh in our lower parking lot. Attendees donated school supplies, bottled water and sports drinks for the area children and Millcreek Police Dept.



Special thanks to those who helped make this event a wonderful success and to Thrivent Action Teams for their support.



**The Shepard Heals our Wounds:** An all new 4-week special interest course lead by Damian Santabene and Pastor Karen. Beginning on Thursday, September 4 at 1:00, with the class continuing on September the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. No RSVP, just show up and enjoy.



The Lord is my Shepherd by Rabbi Harold Kushner: the bestselling guide to the healing wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm.

Rabbi Harold Kushner has found that the simple, beautiful verses of perhaps the most memorable and cherished chapter of the Bible—full of honesty and optimism—have an almost magical power to comfort and calm—and to change your life. The psalm does not pretend that life is ever easy, but it offers a masterful guide to living in the world with faith and courage. Drawing on over forty years of his own thinking, on other biblical scholars, and on history, Kushner gracefully demonstrates how this sustaining work can help us cope with every aspect of life, from mundane jealousies to the death of a loved one to unimaginable tragedies of global proportion.

Books available for \$13.50 at Abiding Hope



**ERIE GIVES**  
8.12.25

**Thank you to all who gave  
on Erie Gives Day ...**

**Abiding Hope**  
Lutheran Church

**29 Gifts  
\$22,395 ... and throughout  
the year!**

**HAROLD S. KUSHNER**  
NATIONAL BESTSELLER

**The Lord Is My Shepherd**  
HEALING WISDOM OF THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

Rabbi Harold Kushner has found that the simple, beautiful verses of perhaps the most memorable psalm have an almost magical power to comfort and calm—and to change your life.

**The Shepherd Heals Our Wounds**  
A 4-week special interest course  
sponsored BY DAMIAN SANTABENE AND PASTOR KAREN  
On Thursdays, beginning  
September 4, at 1:00 at

**Abiding Hope**  
Lutheran Church

**FROM OUR WALLS TO YOURS...**

**Silent Art Auction!**

Prepare yourself for one of the most enjoyable events of the year... a silent auction showcasing beloved art pieces that have been gently enjoyed and are now looking for a new home.

**Timeframe**  
Donations received by Sept 14  
Displayed for AH members Fri Sept 19-5-8pm  
Displayed for community Sat Sept 20-1-4pm  
Final bids Sunday Sept 21-12n-3pm  
Successful buyers contacted on Sept 21

Choose from wood carvings, canvas florals and nature prints, final selections from the Sontheimer collection, paintings of animals and people... and an exceptional selection of religious art.

Displays and bidding:  
Lower level,  
Fellowship Hall  
2402 W Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA  
[www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org)

**Abiding Hope**  
Lutheran Church

## ♪ Music Notes ♪

Fall is just around the corner, and that means the Choir will be back to regular rehearsals and anthems very soon! Musical highlights for the month include Traditional Worship with Organ on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, immediately followed by the Choir's first rehearsal and our annual Choir Picnic downstairs in Fellowship Hall. The Choir will sing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month and continue to rehearse most Sundays immediately following worship. Blended Worship services will be offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

Paul Sontheimer and Howard Lyon will return to share their beautiful cello and violin music on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>! Your requests for more instrumental music have been noted, and we are working on incorporating more instrumentalists into Sunday worship, whenever possible! Also, if you have a favorite hymn or composer, please let me know via email or telephone, and I would be happy to honor these requests as well!

To the Choir, please remember to RSVP for the Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Choir Picnic so we know how many people to plan for!

Blessings,

Sheryl Williams ~ Coordinator of Music

[sheryl4013@yahoo.com](mailto:sheryl4013@yahoo.com) ~ (814) 882-2830

Abiding Hope said "Farewell" to 3 wonderful members this summer.

- Larry Ruhlman ~ June 30, 2025
- Esther Klakamp ~ August 5, 2025
- Judy Nordin ~ August 20, 2025

*"Do not cry because they are gone,  
smile because they lived."*



On Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Lydia Rose Scully, daughter of Connor and Katie Lyn Scully and granddaughter of Bill and Janet Getson, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We welcome this beautiful little girl into our family of believers.

**LADIES**  
*Night Out*  
**Cheddar's**  
SCRATCH KITCHEN

INTERCHANGE ROAD - MILLCREEK MALL AREA

**SEPTEMBER 18 ~ 5:30PM**

All ladies and their friends are invited to this monthly social event. If you need a ride - or can drive - please let Jacque know or note on the sign up sheet in the narthex.  
RSVP by Tuesday, September 16th.  
Carpool leaves AHLC at 5:00.



**Men's Night Out** **Wednesday September 17 6:30pm**

All guys welcome! Come join the fun!

3202 Pittsburgh Ave.  
Erie, PA  
RSVP by Tuesday, 9/16

**GOLDEN WOK**  
Chinese & Japanese Sushi Cuisines




**Prayer Warriors** 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.



Meets Wed ~ September 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3

**Prayer Shawl Group**  
meets Monday  
September 8 & 22 @ 10am

Ladies are welcome to join the "Prayer Shawl Gathering" for prayer, good conversation, and knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer cards, or lap robes for the homebound, baptisms and new members. Or start a new project, or maybe complete an unfinished one. Experience not necessary... we'll provide instructions and yarn. Frequency of the meetings will be discussed.

Contact Jeanne Tropper for more information.




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

September 2025