



LIFE *together*

January 2022

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

"Life Together"

A newsletter from
your friends and family at



2402 W Grandview Blvd

Erie, PA 16506

Office: 814-868-8685

Church e-mail:

ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Website:

www.abidinghopeerie.org

Interim Pastor: Karen Parsh

814-881-3266



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

2 Sunday Services

8:30 & 10:30 AM

**Special Festival Sundays are
combined services at 9 AM**

Sunday services can be viewed,
live-streamed, at 10:30 each

Sunday on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
pg/abidinghopeerie/posts](https://www.facebook.com/pg/abidinghopeerie/posts)



A Message From Pastor Karen

A LITTLE EPIPHANY HUMOR

A first grade Sunday School teacher wanted to make sure her students understood the meaning of the Epiphany. She asked the children what was another name for the wise men who came to visit the infant Jesus.

One girl raised her hand and waved it in the air. The teacher called on her, "Ann?"
"Maggots."

The teacher corrected her and said, "Magi." She continued by asking what were the three gifts that the magi brought the baby Jesus.

Johnny raised his hand excitedly. Teacher called on Johnny who answered, "Gold, frankenstein and smurfs."

A STORY TO MAKE YOU SMILE

"A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the 20 pups. And set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard.

As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy. 'Mister,' he said, 'I want to buy one of your puppies.'

'Well,' said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat on the back of his neck, 'These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money.'

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer.

'I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?' 'Sure,' said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle 'Here, Dolly!' he called. Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur.

The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up....

'I want that one,' the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, 'Son, you don't want that puppy. He will

Cont. on pg. 2

Abiding Hope Contacts

Ministers

All the members of Abiding
Hope Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor

Pastor Karen Parsh
814-881-3266 or
814-807-1214

Council

Andy Saska - 814-450-5620

Thrivent Financial

John & Jacque Holmberg
814-864-3797

Worship & Music

Sheryl Williams
814-882-2830

Evangelism

Ed Whitbred
814-397-0990

Finance

John Holmberg
814-864-3797

Office

Denise Miller
814-868-8685

Property

Rick Penn 814-737-9974
Mike Paris 814-450-3419

Hospitality

Jacque Holmberg
814-864-3797

Care Committee

Church Council

Mission

Lois Kuhns 814-392-0872

KAFP

William Overmoyer
814-836-1676

Christian Ed

Penny Gresh – 559-3254

Altar Care

Analee Cree 814-397-6168
Nancy Cuning 833-3109

Stewardship & WELCA

Jacque Holmberg
814-864-3797

Newsletter & Website

Nancy Cuning – 833-3109

Message From Pastor Karen (cont. from page 1)

never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would.'

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe.

Looking back up at the farmer, he said, 'You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands.'"

In many ways, I think this is part of what the incarnation, the good news of God's coming into our world, is all about. Jesus enters into our world, our situation, our struggles and fears, identifying fully with all that is human. In the midst of it all, he comes to love us completely, with all of our weaknesses and shortcomings. He knows what it is to be poor, alone, betrayed and insulted. He knows the pain of watching a good friend's family in grief. He understands and he loves us, just the way we are – flaws and all. He loved us so much that he was willing to give himself over to death for the sake of those he loves.

"Epiphany begins with speaking God's name, Immanuel, "God with us," in its fullness. For it is when the savior has come. The king of the universe doesn't sit on a throne, but lays in the poverty and ordinariness of a manger. He doesn't come to us wearing a robe and a crown, but instead wears dirty diapers. The God who created the heavens and the earth, who freed the Israelites from Pharaoh, meets us as a screaming, drooling child. And though it's to remember that the hands of this child are the same hands that are nailed at Golgotha. The same head, the one that is still soft, still forming its skull—will have a crown of thorns placed upon it. God has done this—has entered into the mud and the blood of this life to show us who God is, to save us from ourselves, to save us from the gods of our own making." (spoken by one of my seminary professors)

The glow of Christmas is past but the joy of the incarnation continues. God is with us. God loves us. God understands. Rejoice in the miracle dear brothers and sisters – and remember, come what may, you are never alone. God is with us!

Blessing to all in the New Year—*Pastor Karen*



Please Pray For....

Milo Mariotti – Rick & Therese Penn's grandson, family and friends of Joe Pacileo, Ruth Hinkson, family and friends of Pastor Roy Washill, family and friends of Teresa Burgess, family & friends of Pastor Gesler, Don Fuller, Irene Owens, Judi Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger. **Prayer requests:** Please call or email Pastor Karen with prayer requests. Phone: 814-881 3266 or the church office 814-868-8685. *Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks, unless renewed.*



November 30th Council Meeting Recap

Recap of December Council Meeting - Held November 30, 2021

The December meeting was held early due to the Congregation-
al Meeting on December 12. Another meeting with many
topics and concerns for the life of Abiding Hope. Thankfully we have a strong council and
the support of our Abiding Hope family.



- Senior luncheons are going strong and hopefully to grow larger. Speakers are in line through March.
- Thrivent grant was given to purchase the wood for the stable figures.
- One load of donated items was taken to Bethany Outreach. Another will be taken over Christmas break.
- Call Committee has 95% of the profile updated to present to the Bishop for review.
- A motion was made and passed to pay the balance of our commitment to the Synod - pay the balance of our 2020 commitment and our full commitment for 2021.
- Changes to the constitution C11.01 and C11.01.12 were discussed and added to the agenda for the January 23 congregational meeting. Motion made and passed to appoint Pat as the temporary Financial Secretary until the meeting January 23rd.
- Discussion about updating the audio/video
- Discussion about hiring a sexton and this would eliminate PRI and monies being paid to them would be rolled into the sexton's salary.

Next meeting is January 11, 2022 at 6:30

Your council thanks you for your support and input during a year of many changes. What doesn't change is our mission to serve God in all we do. We look forward to a year of growth in all ways in 2022. God Bless all of you in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted: *Analee Cree* - Council Secretary.

AHLC Updates Mask Requirements



Dear Abiding Hope Family,

As we prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth, we are also facing the challenge of keeping our faith community safe. As you know the Covid numbers are increasing, along with hospital stays and unfortunately death. After discussion, your council has decided to put in place a mask requirement for all people in the building. Our hope is that this step is only temporary and we can return without masks, while still taking steps to make sure our members and visitors are safe. The experts in this field still feel that wearing a mask is the first step to help stop the spread of this ever-changing virus.

We appreciate your cooperation with this request. Together we can keep our doors open.

Wishes for a Blessed New Year,

Respectfully - *Analee Cree* - Council Secretary

Online Giving



Giving to Abiding Hope online is easy. Just click on the secure Tithe.ly link below and giving is as simple as filling in the blanks.

[https://tithe.ly/give?
c=1548241](https://tithe.ly/give?c=1548241)



The KAFP continues to provide food and personal care items bi-monthly to the over 80 KAFP participating families in our area. Each month members are invited to donate needed personal care items for distribution the following month. A KAFP basket is in the Church Heritage Room.

**January
Items:
Deodorant**



January Birthdays

Jan 1 Abigail Meier
Jan 3 Jonathan Cree
Jan 3 Sophie Samec
Jan 5 Bill Sontheimer
Jan 6 Emily West
Jan 8 Jeffrey Paris
Jan 9 Bill Getson
Jan 10 Molly Wall
Jan 10 Patrick Ebner
Jan 11 Jo Critchfeld
Jan 12 Alison Smith
Jan 16 John Holmberg
Jan 16 Carol Whitbred
Jan 16 Tyler Delmedico
Jan 19 Logan Smith
Jan 19 Erik Wyman
Jan 22 Mark Riggle
Jan 23 Judy Johnston
Jan 23 Matt Krause
Jan 23 MaKenna Gordon
Jan 27 Theo Riggle
Jan 28 Tennyson Wiegand

Thank you!

Abiding Hope came through again providing many thoughtful gifts and gift cards for the kids at Bethesda Children's Services. Special thanks to everyone who helped make the holiday's special for these deserving kids.

Gently Used Clothes & Shoes Needed

Abiding Hope continues to collect gently used shoes and gently used clothing for the Bethany Outreach collection. Donations will be taken to Bethany Outreach. Items (any season) are needed for **men, women and children**. Bethany Outreach is the light in the darkness of many lives who are in need. They can receive these items without charge. Donations can be left in the mail room. Any questions, please contact Analee Cree - 814-397-6168.



A reminder that we are still collecting gently used shoes of all sizes. They are being donated to Chosen, which is located on West 26th St, which is an International Ministry sharing the Love of Christ. You can also donate any medical equipment that you are no longer using. In need of a piece of equipment, call them or stop by. They can help you. A donation is appreciated if you are able. You can drop the shoes in the Heritage Room. Your Mission Committee



Upcoming Congregational Meeting

Abiding Hope's Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 23rd at 9:30, following the 8:30 service**. Members will review and vote on 2021 Annual Report, which will include committee and financial reports and pastor's report and a revision to our constitution. Old and New Business will also be discussed.



Note to Committee chairs: Please email your 2021 committee reports to Nancy Cuning at ncunning3125@gmail.com on or before the **January 10th** deadline. For a copy of your 2020 committee report contact Nancy.

For Men Only - Breakfast

Calling all men of Abiding Hope and their buddies! A **MEN'S ONLY** breakfast will be held **Saturday, January 15th at 9:00 am** at **Panos Restaurant** on W 38th St. No agenda just a get together of guys. The ladies have been enjoying dinner out together for several years, now the guys will have their time for camaraderie. For more information contact Lon Jenkins.



Call Committee Update

Our pastoral Call Committee continues to meet. They have completed approximately 95% of the ministry profile. When completed, it will be presented to the Bishop for review. It has been decided that Pastor Karen will be our "intentional" interim which allows her to continue to serve Abiding Hope for an extended time.

Can't make it to worship on Sunday? Sunday services are livestreamed on Facebook each Sunday at 10:30 or available on the website anytime. Check them out! <https://www.facebook.com/pg/abidinghopeerie/posts> & www.abidinghopeerie.org

Pastor Albert U Gesler Jr Obituary

Pastor Albert U. Gesler, Jr., age 86, passed away Sunday, December 5, 2021. Born in Monongahela, Pa. on January 9, 1935, Albert went on to live in the Erie community for over 76 years. He graduated from Academy High School, attended Behrend Center, and graduated from Thiel College. He attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and was ordained to the ministry on June 3, 1959. He received his Doctor of Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation in 1986.

Pastor Gesler served congregations throughout the Erie area – including Christ the Redeemer, Lawrence Park; Our Savior's, Kearsarge; and Trinity, McKean. He also served as an Interim Minister in Edinboro; Good Hope, Oil City; Salem, Lamartine, and St. Paul's, Knox; Bethany (now merged with Luther Memorial); St. John's, Girard; Twelve Apostles, Saegertown; Holy Trinity and St. Matthew's, Erie; Holy Trinity, Greenville; and St. Mark's, Waterford.

Albert was very active in the community, starting the program which eventually became Metro-Erie Meals-on-Wheels, and was instrumental in the founding of the Kearsarge Food Pantry and Second Harvest in Erie. He served on the Lawrence Park Recreation Planning Board for over 30 years, and on the East Erie Recreation and Conservation Authority from its inception. He was a charter member of the Millcreek Area Kiwanis Club, serving as secretary and president, and as Regional Trustee for the state-wide organization. For many years, he was on the board of LIFE Northwestern

Pennsylvania, and was the founding chairman of the newly established, Lutheran Foundation For Long Term Living.



In addition to serving as pastor to many in local Erie Lutheran churches, Albert also served on the Synod Council for the Lutheran Church in America and later the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America synods, and the Erie District as Dean and Secretary, and as Secretary of the East Erie Cluster of Lutheran Churches.

He led groups for Lutheran Disaster Relief in the Dakotas and Carolinas, worked on building houses for Habitat for Humanity, led youth groups to the National Lutheran Youth Gatherings in Miami, New Orleans, St. Louis, and Atlanta, and was active in church softball and basketball programs.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rev. Dr. Albert U. Gesler, Sr.; mother, Nora Jane Goodman Gesler; his wife, Edwina Hem Gesler; and his sister and brother-in-law, Alice and John Engel. He is survived by his son, Albert Urban Gesler, III; daughter, Carol (Erik) Williamson; granddaughters, Abigail and Molly; niece, Lisa De Los Santos; and nephew, Greg Engel (Debra).

Posted online on December 06, 2021

Published in Erie Times-News

Pastor Al's funeral was held at Abiding Hope with many clergy, friends and family in attendance. A time for fellowship and dinner was held following the service at the church.

A note to the Abiding Hope Family ...

A heartfelt Thank You to everyone for the Christmas card and your gift of money.

From day one at Abiding Hope, I felt the welcoming warmth and support from this family. I am truly grateful.

Blessings and safe health in the coming New Year.

Best, Denise



January's Coffee & Conversation will be Sunday January 23rd during the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Hosted by the Finance Committee (Pat Wenzel & John Holmberg)

Plan to attend the meeting with coffee and a sweet treat and catch up with members and friends and the business of the church.

Note: February's Coffee Hour is **February 6th** following both services and is sponsored by the Mission Comm. (Lois Kuhns)



Thank you!

to the cooks and bakers, to the kitchen crew and the coordinators who donated food and gave their time to serve the families and friends of Pastor Albert Gesler and Teresa Burgess. These two bereavement, comfort meals allowed them a peaceful time to gather together to grieve and console, and to remember and renew one another. Your hard work is appreciated.



Altar Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate flowers for worship, can sign-up on the form on the table in the narthex. The cost of a single flower arrangement remains the same as before, \$20 per arrangement. Flower orders are called-in to florist each Tuesday.



Obituary ~ Teresa K. Burgess



Teresa K. Burgess (Dennison) passed away at LECOM Nursing and Rehab in the night on December 7th, 2021, following a long struggle of health issues after an aneurysm in March of 2019.

During her young life Teresa moved around with her family in her younger years and finally settled in the Erie area. Teresa spent many years working retail (including managing the Spencer's at the Millcreek Mall) and other odd jobs (especially while earning her degree at Mercyhurst) before ending in a clerical position at Free to Choose Network with a family of coworkers she adored.

Teresa enjoyed hanging out with friends, dancing, and singing. Teresa had a passion for rabbits and volunteered with the Erie Area Rabbit Society & Rescue (EARS). Teresa was a big fan of nature and reading. When not working or with friends, Teresa was the happiest when playing with and doting on her grandchildren.

Teresa is survived by her mother, Elizabeth "Jo" Critchfield, her two daughters Leah Snyder (Burgess) and Sara Burgess, four grandchildren Gerard Holmstrom, Arielle Churchill, Arianna Churchill, and Alyvia Burgess. She is survived by two sisters and two brothers, as well as many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held at Burton Quinn Scott Cremation and Funeral Services. 3801 W. 26th Street, on Saturday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, Leah and Sara request that you make a donation to Teresa's beloved Erie Area Rabbit Society, 2316 W. 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506.

Send condolences at www.BurtonQuinnScott.com.

Posted online on December 09, 2021

Published in Erie Times-News

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners, where at least 30 tornados swept thru six states on Dec 10 & 11, to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Many people are reported dead and search-and-rescue operations are still underway for those unaccounted for. Homes and businesses were destroyed.

Please pray for the survivors and the helpers and consider giving a gift of money, if you are able. **Lutheran Disaster Response** can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. With your gifts to **"U.S. Tornadoes"** will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted. Your checks may be placed in the offering plate, or you may give by phone at 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm CT), or online at ELCA.org.



Rest in Peace, Joe Pacileo

Joseph Walter Pacileo, 58, reached the end of his long battle with cancer on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at home surrounded by his family. He showed courage, and despite his pain, stayed strong through the end to be with the family he loved. He is remembered as a caring husband, a loving father, a dedicated brother, and a friend to all.



Joe was one of a kind. Those who knew Joe know he was always willing to drop everything to go help anyone in need. Above all else, he loved spending time with his girls, including his dog Winnie, his family, and his friends. He will never be forgotten but forever remembered and missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

He leaves a huge hole in the heart of his beloved wife of 30 years, Karri (Humalainen) Pacileo; his three wonderful daughters, Lauren (Charles Fisher), Megan, and Emily; his dear mother, Judith (Hersperger) Pacileo; an amazing group of siblings, Mark (Teresa) Pacileo, John (Helene) Gordon, Paul (Kimberly) Pacileo, David Gordon, William (Chrissie) Gordon, Mary Burton, Robert (Cheryl) Pacileo, Tim Gordon, James (Carrie) Pacileo, and Sandra Pacileo; and numerous nieces and nephews, whom he cherished.

As Joe did not want people to mourn his passing, there will be a celebration of his life held at the St. Francis Usher's Club in McKean, Pennsylvania on Thursday, December 30th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

May God's presence give this wonderful family strength and peace throughout the days ahead.

A complete obituary can be seen on [GoErie.com](https://www.goerie.com).

A Note from Pastor Karen & Dave



Many thanks to all those who made our Christmas celebration so memorable – Sheryl and the choir / soloists for their fabulous musical offerings - Penny Gresh and Nancy Cuning for so effectively transforming our altar area into a stable - and Lon Jenkins, Jeanne Tropper and friends who helped gather and deliver a small forest of trees for our shut-ins.

Dave and I were also deeply moved by your generosity over the holidays. We both feel deeply privileged to be part of Abiding Hope during these challenging times, and look forward to the coming year. Our shared journey is certain to expand our faith horizons.

With love and blessings... **Pastor Karen and Dave**

Bible Study Resumes Jan 9th

Bible Study, led by Pastor Karen, resumes on **Sunday, January 9th** following the 8:30 service. Following the text of THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION, we are studying what it means to be Lutheran, including who is God, the meaning of justification, the role of church, and so much more... Join us!

Parish Staff and Leadership

Interim Pastor

Karen Parsh

Office Assistant

Denise Miller

Coordinator of

Music Ministry

Sheryl Williams

Building Maintenance



2021 Church Council

President

Andy Saska

Vice-President

Penny Gresh

Secretary

Analee Cree

Treasurer

John Holmberg

Financial Secretary

Pat Wenzel

Council Members

Pastor Karen Parsh

Judi Pacileo

Lois Kuhns

Lon Jenkins

Dave Cuning



Pray with us and join with us as we seek to live in a loving community with one another and share the hope of Jesus Christ with those who need it most!

Mark Your Calendars

Only 1 worship service at
9:00 AM on
Sunday Jan 2nd



Ladies Night Out

Thursday Jan 20th ~
5:30 PM at
2112 East Lake Road
on Erie's eastside



Join us for this time of fellowship and good food. No agenda; just a time for fun with friends, both older and newer! (Dutch treat)

Please contact Jacque Holmberg at 490.4470 or jholmberg@roadrunner.com to **RSVP by January 14th**. If you need a ride or if you are able to be a driver, please let Jacque know. All Ladies are welcome!

Senior Group Luncheon ~ Wed Jan 5th—12 noon

Calling All Seniors! Abiding Hope Invites YOU to join the fun at the January Fellowship Group on **January 5th at NOON**. Enjoy speaker Steve Waieskey, director of Asbury Woods, who will inform us on what Asbury Woods offers this community. Bring a bag lunch (or pick up lunch at Maria's on the way) and enjoy wonderful desserts, and lemonade. If you're a senior you won't want to miss this. Abiding Hope members, family and friends are all welcome. Plan to join the group on **Wednesday January 5th at noon**.



Women of the ELCA Convention in May 2022

The **NWPA Women's Convention** is going to be **May 13-14, 2022** at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow, PA. Of course, we are hoping that we will finally be able to safely gather and share a weekend. Many of you have been able to have small gatherings with your units and we recently had the one-day retreat event at Lutherlyn. I, for one, am anxious to see everyone again. Health guidelines and the parameters from Olmsted Manor will dictate what we can do but we'll keep hopeful that we can move forward with our Convention. That being said, Conference 1 is responsible for the planning and implementation of the convention. I am looking for 2-3 women from our area that would be interested in helping make this happen. We need committees for reservations, registration, program, resolutions, elections. See Jacque Holmberg for more information.



Lutherlyn January Events

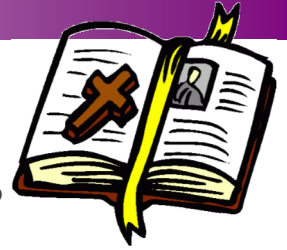
Throughout the year Lutherlyn hosts a wide variety of both day, and overnight programs specifically offered to children, while others are designed for crafters like our quilters and scrap bookers, and still other retreats which were created for the whole family! For more information see www.lutherlyn.com.



Jan 11-16 - Quilting/Crafting Retreat: Come and join us for a fun-filled weekend (optional Thursday arrival) of quilting/crafting/reading/relaxing/creating. It's a great time of fun and fellowship that's very popular with quilters, scrap bookers, and other crafters. (Registration Required)

Jan 22 - Winter Retreat: for 4th-12th graders (campers will be divided by age groups for the day). Saturday, 10am-7pm. GAGA ball in the snow, Bible study, the bouldering room, songs, worship, friends, indoor and outdoor games, lots of your summer camp favorites, and fun in the wonderful winter weather! (Registration Required, coming soon.)

January Gospels at a Glance



January 2 – Matthew 2:1-12 “On entering the house, the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. ” FOCUS: *Welcome the true king with your heart...* Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst. My hope is that in this new year, people will look at each of us and see God’s eyes. My prayer is that people will look at our church and experience the love of God. That can only happen if we will tune our hearts to the heart of God.

January 9 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 “After Jesus was baptized by John... a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. .” FOCUS: *REPENT & BELIEVE!* Are you longing to hear God’s voice? What would it be like to hear God call you by name? For many it seems that God spoke to people long ago and far away, but now in this time and place God’s voice is much less clear and less audible. Perhaps we cannot hear the voice of God because our world is full of noise? Perhaps we are not open to the particular frequency in which God chooses to call us? Perhaps we continually tune out this heavenly summons with our daily rush, not taking the time to quiet ourselves, our minds, our inner voices. We can use this time after Epiphany to clear out a corner of our lives for quiet prayer, meditation, or centering. Maybe then we will be able to hear . . . to sense . . . to listen.

Listen! God’s voice comes from heaven to call us by name, speak to the earth, shake the wilderness, and to anoint “the Beloved.” Listen! God’s people speak words of covenant, commitment, and community in the liturgy of baptism. Listen! God’s word surrounds this day with power and majesty and “in the temple of the LORD all are crying, ‘Glory!’” (Ps. 29:9). In this season of epiphanies, today’s miraculous encounter with the living God immerses us in the sound of God’s voice and bathes us in God’s baptismal promise. All who are

splashed by this water gasp, cry, exclaim, sigh, and sing. Let all who have breath, praise the Lord!

January 16 – John 2:1-11 “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” FOCUS: Christ has come to offer us the gifts of the Kingdom—Alleluia! The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan’s banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God’s people “as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride.” By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

January 23 – Luke 4:14-21 “From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ” FOCUS: Jesus shares the mission statement for his work here on earth...! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

January 30 – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. FOCUS: Paul’s emphasis on unity within the body of Christ has its apex in this much quoted praise of the loving spirit that ought to characterize the Christian community. Despite its popularity as a reading at weddings, Paul is describing not a bonded couple, but the whole community in Christ. The Greek noun *agape* refers to love so other-directed as to be realized only by God.

Adapted from commentary from Sundays and Season

Congregational Meeting Recap



Meeting Minutes

Recap of Budget Congregational Meeting December 12, 2021

Special thanks to all the members who attended this important meeting in the life of our congregation. It takes many hours, committee reports and the dedication of the financial secretary and treasurer/committee, to present the budget. We are blessed to have this team. Please review the main points of this meeting and reach out to myself or other council members.

- Concern was expressed the budget was not for a full-time pastor. Discussion that Pastor Allie was not full-time and based on the time frame to have a pastor answer the call, it can be adjusted.
- Statistics show that you need an average attendance of 125 to retain a full-time pastor
- A motion was made and passed to increase the Charitable Gifts #6011 to \$500 from \$200. This fund is used to pay the Kearsarge Fire Department
- The following council members are staying on for one year - Judi - Dave - Analee - Andy
- Jacque Holmberg and Judi Pacileo volunteered to attend the Synod Assembly as our representatives, a motion was made and passed.

Complete minutes will be available for review.

Respectfully submitted by: *Analee Cree* - Council Secretary

Current Fund Report

November Income: \$12,084.60
November Expenses: \$ 9,213.48
November Difference: \$ 2,871.12



Year to Date Income: \$124,666.75
Year to Date Expenses: \$ 94,136.99
Year to date Difference: \$ 30,529.76

Year to Date Budget: \$133,364



Contribution Statements & 2022 Envelopes

2021 Contributions Statements are available in your church mailboxes and were sent by email. Notify Financial Secretary Pat Wenzel text 814-572-5140 or email: RNWenzel@gmail.com if you have any questions about your statement or if you need your statement sent to your home by US mail. Remember if you donated to the church through Erie Gives, that donation will not appear on your AHLC contribution statement.



2022 Boxes of Offering Envelopes for those on last year's envelope list will be distributed in your church mailboxes by the end of December. If you haven't been on the envelope list and would like a box, there will be some extra boxes in the mailroom. Please sign the sheet on the line corresponding to the number of the box you are taking. If you need to have your box of offering envelopes mailed to your home address, please notify Pat Wenzel, text 814-572-5140 or email: RNWenzel@gmail.com.



Care Committee

Do you know a member of Abiding Hope who could use a card of encouragement or support? Our **Care Committee** will send a card. Contact Carol Whitbred of the Care Committee at cew6@psu.edu.















Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

LIFE together

January 2022



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Senior Group January meeting is set for Wed. Jan 5th at 12 noon. Guest speaker will be Steve Waieskey, the director of Asbury Woods. All seniors are welcome. See details on page 8.</p> 						<p>1</p> 
<p>2 Epiphany of Our Lord One service 9:00</p>	<p>3 Al-Anon 7:30 PM</p>	<p>4 Staff Mtg. 10 am</p>	<p>5 Tops 9am Senior Group Meeting 12noon (see pg 8) Adult Choir 6pm</p>	<p>6  EPIPHANY</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Overeaters Anonymous 10:30</p>
<p>9 Baptism of our Lord Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 AM Bible Study 9:30</p> 	<p>10 Annual Committee Reports due to Nancy Cuning</p>	<p>11 Staff Mtg. 10am Church Council mtg. 6:30 PM</p>	<p>12 Tops 9 AM Adult Choir 6pm</p> 	<p>13 KAFP Volunteers 9 AM In-person distribution 10-11 AM</p>	<p>14 RSVP for Ladies Night Out Jan 20th</p>	<p>15 Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 Men's Breakfast at Panos 9AM (See pg. 4)</p>
<p>16 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 2021 Annual Reports available</p>	<p>17 Jan 11-16 Lutheran Quilters/Crafter Retreat Al-Anon 7:30 PM</p>	<p>18 Staff Mtg. 10</p> 	<p>19 Tops 9 AM Adult Choir 6pm</p> 	<p>20 Ladies Night Out at Ricardo's Restaurant 5:30 PM (see pg 8)</p>	<p>21 Newsletter DL</p> 	<p>22 Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 Lutherlyn Winter Retreat</p>
<p>23 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 AM</p>	<p>24 ← 1/23 Congregational mtg. 9:30am with Coffee Hour Al-Anon 7:30</p>	<p>25 Staff Mtg. 10am</p>	<p>26 Tops 9 AM Adult Choir 6pm</p> 	<p>27 Newsletter mailed KAFP Volunteers 9 AM In-person distribution 10-11 AM</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Overeaters Anonymous 10:30</p>
<p>30 4th Sunday of Epiphany Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 AM Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>31 ← 1/30 5th Sunday World Hunger Special Gifts Day Al-Anon 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 23rd between services. 2021 Annual Report will be discussed. Coffee Hour during meeting with Finance Comm. hosting. Details on pages 4 & 5.</p> 				

Office Hours at Abiding Hope

Church office hours are
Mondays and Tuesdays
9:30-3:30 & Wednesday's
9 to 12:30

Phone: 814-868-8685

Email: ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Phone: 814-868-8685

Like us on
Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/abidinghopeerie/posts>

Our website:

www.abidinghopeerie.org

Music Notes

Happy New Year! We were blessed to celebrate Christmas together in person and both services were beautiful. We are thankful for Pastor Karen and her enthusiastic support of the music program at Abiding Hope. With the new year upon us, why not resolve to share your time and talents by joining the choir? Maybe consider bringing your spouse or a friend with you? The more the merrier! The next choir rehearsal will be on Wed., Jan. 5th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, and the ability to read music is not necessary. Hope to see you there!

Blessings, Sheryl Williams Coordinator of Music

sheryl4013@yahoo.com 882-2830



World Hunger 5th Sunday is January 30th



Abiding Hope Church Council designated each 5th Sunday as a time for members to contribute financial support to help meet the needs of a hungry world. Pew envelopes are available in the pews for cash and check donations. If using a check, make it payable to Abiding Hope, indicating ELCA World Hunger in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate. Support the World Hunger project on **January 30th**. Thank you.

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd
Erie PA 16506
Phone: 814-868-8685



Interim Pastor
Karen Parsh

814-881-3266 or

814-807-1214 or

pastorparsh@gmail.com

Pastor's Office hours

Tuesdays 10 to noon and by
appointment

January 2022



A Loving Family...Living the Faith,
Sharing the Hope...OF CHRIST!