October 2025 Life Together Newsletter





A Message from Pastor Karen

"Thine is the Glory, ever conquering Lord" ... The verse to that hymn (used at Dave's funeral) and your joyous celebration of his life through worship and meal, has been good medicine for my broken heart – as have your many individual expressions of support and love.

Because the Body of Christ at Abiding Hope and my relationships with other faith communities in NWPA have offered me a lifeline throughout Dave's illness, I am bold to PROCLAIM that BODY OF CHRIST, you are beautiful. You visited him in the nursing homes, prayed with him and for him, while offering supportive encouragement for me throughout the past 3 years of illness.

All of this is to say that when Dave's passing finally came it was my opportunity to grieve as well as my opportunity to witness the Glory of God as expressed through my Faith Community. The loss still hurts, but you have reminded me of God's victory – even in the darkest of situations.

Which leads me to remember Dave's foundational philosophy of life... Finding the secret of happiness – by brushing away the "IF ONLYS" and celebrating the life God has given us.

How many people do you know that get stuck in a rut because they are overwhelmed by troubles and a litany of "IF ONLYS"?

We promise ourselves that life will get better **IF ONLY** we find the perfect spouse and create the perfect family. We agonize about parenting frustrations, fragile finances and broken relationships.

We tell ourselves that our lives will be complete if our spouses straighten up - OR - the people around us stop disappointing us - OR - a thousand different **IF ONLYS**.

After a lifetime spent waiting for happiness to begin, we realize that joy was all around us, **IF ONLY** we hadn't wasted our lives worrying about "**IF ONLYS**".

When I got down in the dumps, Dave would always say... "Don't worry, be happy with what you have!!

Cont. on page 2

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd Erie, PA 16506 814.868.8685

www.abidinghopeerie.org
Office email:
ahadministrator@hotmail.com

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Pastor Karen Parsh

Cell: 814-881-3266 pastorparsh@gmail.com

Church Hours:

While Denise is on vacation through Oct 21st the church office will be manned sporadically. Please leave a message.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 Sunday Bible Study: 11:00

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Sunday services can be viewed, live streamed, at 9:30 on Facebook or anytime on the website.

Staff

Office Assistant: Denise Miller

Coordinator of Music: Sheryl Williams

Sexton: Jeff Neely

- ~ Don't obsess about nonessential numbers. These include age, weight, height and the number of pennies you've stored in your piggy bank.
- ~ Keep only cheerful friends. Grouches pull you down.
- ~ LEARN! Closing your mind to new experiences makes you old before your time.
- ~ Enjoy simple things, like ice cream sundaes and watching trains pass by on the tracks.
- ~ a GOOD PUN IS FAR BETTER THAN A GRUMPY COMPLAINT.
- ~ Embrace all of God's creation as a gift. Treasure the forests and mountains and lakes as playgrounds just waiting to be explored.
- ~ Never get tired of telling the people you love that you love them!

The greatest gift Dave gave me was to live a lifetime of love each and every day so that when we are separated by death or circumstance we can honestly say we have no regrets... that we lived and loved passionately regardless of the speed bumps that got in our way...

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A message from Paster Karen: It is with deepest gratitude and love that my family and I thank each of you for your kindness and concern during / before and after Dave's passing. As you know, this is an intensely difficult and painful experience for those of us left behind. But your God filled expressions of love and compassion have made all the difference. Thank all for everything that you have said and done to make Dave's memory even more beloved.



With love, Pastor Karen and family (Michael, Katie, and Greg)

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# Please keep in your prayers:

time from your month to pray with us...

Joyce Brucker, family and friends of Dick Brucker. Pastor Karen, family and friends of David Parsh.

Also members and friends: Ed Tropper and Jeanne, Monica MacKellar, Trish Cirillo, Karen Shick, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Ron Froess, Kathi Sinnott, Don & Donna Holder, Judy Johnston, and requests from the Little Library.



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**Prayer Warriors:** The church sanctuary is open on **Wednesday**, **October 15 from 1:00-3:00 for our monthly Prayer Warriors gathering.** Please enter the sanctuary in silence; sit wherever you want or kneel in prayer at the altar. If you are unable to join us, pray from wherever you are for as long as you can. Everyone is invited to "pray for our families, church congregation, neighbors, community, nation, and the world". There are so many needs right now within each of these categories! But God is faithful; he assures us that "where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them" (Matthew 18:20). Prayer and meditation have GREAT POWER! Please take some

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**Little Free Library & Pantry News:** A HUGE thank you to Dave Cunning for his refurbish work on the Little Free Library/Pantry - it looks so beautiful! The Library/Pantry is recording an average of 27 visits per week; there are 'regulars' who continually exchange books, leave new books, and donate food for the pantry. As cooler weather arrives, food is now placed in the pantry based on the daily temperatures. The pantry would welcome donations of **nuts**, **cereal cups or small boxes of cereal**, **applesauce/peanut butter in plastic jars**, **beans**, **stews**, **chili**, **soup** 

and granola bars. Donations can be placed in the labeled bins found in the Heritage Room.

The church community is welcome to visit the library for your own reading enjoyment! There are quite a nice variety of books to choose from!

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October 22 – Boscovs' Friend and Family Day: Circle this date on your calendar with Wed. October 22. With the purchase of a \$5 coupon, you'll save 25% all day on almost everything in the Boscov store, even sale items. (And Abiding Hope gets to keep the \$5.) Coupons are available in the narthex for \$5. - Analee Cree

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**Little Jeaus Outreach:** Everyone needs a Little Jesus! In the Narthex under the tv wall monitor is a basket filled with Little Jesus figurines and the church's welcome card. Take as many as you like to serve as an ambassador for Christ to our community—leave them to be found in places like: coffee shops, waiting rooms, on walking trails, on benches, common areas of offices, laundromats, book shelves, vending machines, gas pumps, on cars in a parking lot, and even ATM machines. Pray for the person who will find Little Jesus!

Everyone is invited to be part of this ministry of our church—it is a positive way for any of us to serve God! One hundred Little Jesus figurines have already been distributed through our congregation! If you have any interesting stories regarding this ministry, please share with Pastor Karen!

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KAPF Update: In September the Food Pantry began a new program asking AHLC, New Hope and Temple Anshe Hesed members to donate 1 specified food item each month to provide every family with the food item. Items requested are:

**September**.... Pasta or 2# bags of white or brown rice **October**.... Cream of Mushroom, Chicken or Celery soup

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

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



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Effavotes ~ We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.

We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the

right to vote to all citizens.

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# Thank you AHLC for Sport Drinks and Water

A huge thank you to **Abiding Hope Lutheran Church** for their generous donation of Gatorade to both Millcreek Paramedic Service and the Millcreek Township Police Department today! Your kindness and support mean so much to us and we are truly grateful that you thought of our team.



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

Deadline: Oct 13. 1st come; 1st served!

Erie Lutheran Conference has secured two school buses with professional drivers to transport folks to and from Bishop Papson's Installation Service, Sunday, 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 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 our narthex.



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Medicare 101 ~ Presentation by Steven Kehl Monday, October 6, 6:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 E. Lake Rd.

Steven is a local licensed Medicare agent who for years has been helping folks in our community understand their Medicare options. His goal is to make things simple, clear, and maybe even a little enjoyable.

The presentation will cover the basics of social security and Medicare, with plenty of time for questions. This educational community event, sponsored by Faith's Social Ministry committee, is free and open to the public.

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**Thank you to** Pastor Ralph Mineo for leading Abiding Hope in worship on September 14. This was part of an Erie Conference pulpit exchange to build relationships among all members.

In November we will experience worship with two more worship leaders:
Bishop Kristen Papson on November 2 and Rabbi S. Robert Morais on Nov
23. Our own Pastor Karen Parsh will celebrate with Temple Anshe Hesed on
Friday Nov 21.



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**Hospitality Coordinator Resigns** ~ With mixed feelings, I am tendering my resignation as Hospitality Coordinator. I am eternally grateful to everyone who supported and loved me in my tenure. I love all of you and wish you the best in future events. *Carolyn Hayes* 

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**Gave This Date!** November 20. Volunteers Needed! To serve Sloppy Joes at Holy Trinity LC, Erie. Contact Jacque for info: <a href="mailto:jholmberg@roadrunner.com/814-490-447">jholmberg@roadrunner.com/814-490-447</a>

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# 2025 Abiding Hope All Saints' Sunday~ November 2 at 9:30



Remembering those who have passed on before us in faith is very important.

As part of our worship services on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, All Saints Sunday, you will have the opportunity to say special prayers and light a candle of remembrances for loved ones who have passed. In addition, there will be a memorial insert in the bulletin with the names of loved ones you wish to be remembered by our Abiding Hope family. If your loved one passed after November 3, 2024, please add an asterisk after the name.

PRINT <u>CLEARLY</u>, place the form in the offering plate by Sunday, Oct 26 or to the office by Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A truckload of thanks and bushels of gratitude to those who

contributed your time, food or finances to the Dave Parsh and Dick Brucker funerals and/or memorial luncheons. The families and friends of the departed felt God's love shine through your gifts of time and treasure. Thank you all. The Hospitality Team



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Bethesda Lutheran Gerwices sent a big thank you for Abiding Hope's donation of school supplies. These gifts will assist Bethesda youth throughout the school year and allowing hope for a promising future for these students. God bless you all. Bethesda Lutheran Services, Meadville, PA

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Eric Gives 2025: AHLC received a check from the Eric Community Foundation for \$23,116.66. Donations from 29 patrons totaled \$22,395 with \$721.66 share from Eric Gives. KAFP received \$1,259.33 from 12 donors with their ECF share is yet undetermined. Thank you everyone who participated.

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### 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 Voat 814-504-3566

### Office

Denise Miller 814-868-8685

### **Property**

Andy Saska 814-450-5620

### **Hospitality**

Open

### **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

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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.

# ELCA elects New Bishop

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He will begin this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and be installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Installation of the
Presiding Bishop
Saturday, October 4, 2025 1 2:00 p.m. CDT
Central Lutheran Church I Minneapolis, Minn.

Currently, he serves as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops,

fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran

communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, III. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, III., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

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Erie Conference Mission Profile Results

The Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC) Mission Profile Survey results are in. Data was collected during August and September using online and paper surveys. Over 225 people across 14 congregations responded. The next task force meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2025, at 6PM hosted at Luther Memorial. There is a copy of the complete findings available for review in the Narthex or click to below to open full report. Here are some brief highlights from the survey:

- 44% have been with their current congregations for 35+ years
- 74% are 50 years old or older
- 81% attend worship weekly
- 39% say their congregation is growing, surviving, or thriving
- 53% foresee a merger or consolidation in their future
- 57% are okay with sharing a pastor
- 73% are okay with sharing support staff

Click Here for full report

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Council Recap of September 9th meeting:

Gathering that evening with heavy hearts and prayers for Pastor Karen.

- Discussion on ways to streamline the bulletin to save on printing costs.
- August was a strong financial month, yet electric bill was \$655
- A motion was made and passed that 25% of profits from the Silent Auction (now postponed until a later date) go to KAFP and 25% to Holy Trinity Center
- Building Insurance policy has been transferred to Erie Insurance. Cost efficient and better coverage
- A motion made and passed to hire Jeff Neely as our new sexton. Will start this month

As we round the corner to the end of the year, please consider becoming a council member. I also ask you to reflect on how you can help serve God through Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.

<u>Family participation, our most valuable cornerstone</u>. Respectfully submitted by Analee Cree - Council Secretary

1 October Music Notes 1

The Choir has returned to regular rehearsals and will be singing anthems weekly as we are able. In September, we lost two dear members, Judy Nordin and David Parsh, who are greatly missed and are now singing in God's Choir. May they rest in peace.

The Choir is somewhat smaller this year due to illness, retirement, and busy schedules. We continue to rehearse after worship services on Sunday mornings, and NOW is the time to join if you are even thinking about singing with us, because WE NEED YOU!

Howard Lyon and Paul Sontheimer have begun rehearsing special music again after a summer hiatus, and we look forward to hearing their beautiful violin, viola and cello music on a monthly basis! We are also so fortunate to have Brian Gresh, Paul Mirone and Cindi Reid accompany worship most Sundays now that their summer schedules are winding down!

Happy Fall, Everyone!

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



AED/CPR training classes will be held at AHLC on Friday Oct 17 and Oct 24 from 1-4pm with Millcreek Paramedic and Education Coordinator, Jeff Hulling, instructing.

If you need your AED certification renewed or just want to learn, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 814-868-8685. Cost: \$35. Two class dates are available with 10-12 students per class. Sign up today.



Potential Worship Outreach

Many AH members are living at The Regency. Pastor Karen is considering starting a special monthly worship service there and possibly also at Walnut Creek. If you are interested in assisting in either of these new ventures, please see Pastor Karen.

Also, Pastor Karen is contemplating making the second Sunday of Advent a healing service – Is this something you might be interested in?

Please give Pastor Karen your feedback.

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

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October Green Corner Article

HOME WINTERIZATION: ACT OF CREATION CARE, WALLET CARE, AND COMFORT CARE



This article is not a complete guide to winterization. It is intended to remind us that winter is nearly here and there is still time to improve our homes' readiness. Much of the article is based on: https://handymanhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Winterization-1.pdf

Winterizing your house isn't only about staying warm. A house that isn't winterized will consume more energy and costs continue to rise every year. But it's not just about costs, it's about creation care. Any energy source that uses fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas, propane) for electricity and heat generation degrades God's creation. The CO2 and other contaminant emissions change the earth's climate and degrade the environment. Failing to winterize will cost you more money on top of repair headaches. Save more, worry less, and stay comfortable by checking your home and performing tasks to ensure it is winter-ready.

The website will walk you through a set of improvements for your home.

- Furnaces, ductwork, and thermostats
- Insulation in attic and walls, as well as around water heaters
- Ceiling fans
- Fireplaces, wood stoves, and chimneys
- House exterior
- Windows and doors
- Locating sources of drafts
- Checking outside faucets and hoses and insulating water pipes

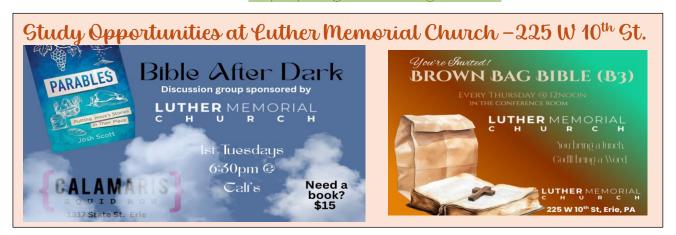
You can easily perform many weatherproofing jobs yourself depending on the specific type of winterization. The work may require little investment beyond your time and a few basic supplies. Even the cost of additional insulation pays off every time you open your utility bills! The costs are also paid off by the decreased harm done to creation!

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.

Contact us at: nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

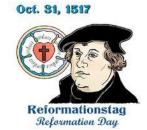


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October 2025 Abiding Hope Calendar



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

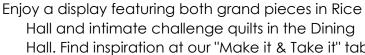
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Blessing of the Animals	Sunday, Oct 12. Bring your well- behaved pet to AH on Oct 12 @ 9:30 for a pet blessing	Office Manager, Denise, on vacation from 10/6 thru 10/20	1 Tops 9-11 M Lessons 7:30-8:30	1pm "Shepherd" discussion group	3	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
5 17 th Sunday of Pentecost with Traditional music Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45 Bible Study 11:00 BINGO @ 1PM see page 7	Prayer Shawls 10-12 M. Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	7 Ministry Team 10:30	8 Tops 9-11 M Lessons 7:30-8:30	9 KAFP 9-11:30 KAIP Virtual thurst limit rout Typm "Shepherd" discussion group	10	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
12 18 th Sunday of Pentecost with Blessing of the Pets Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45	RSVP for MNO M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	14 Ministry Team 10:30 Church Council 6:30 RSVP for LNO	Prayer Warriors 1-3 MNO 6:30 @ El Amigos M Lessons 7:30-	16 1pm "Shepherd" discussion group Ladies Night Out 5:30 @ Golden Wok	AED/CPR Training Class 1- 4 \$35 RSVP	M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
19 19 th Sunday of Pentecost Worship 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 No choir Bishop Papson's ordination 3:30	Prayer Shawls 10-12 M Lessons 4-6 Al-Anon 7:30	No Ministry Team mtg.	22 Tops 9-11 Boscov's Save 25% Day DL Newsletter M Lessons 7:30- 8:30	23 KAFP 9-11:30 KAIP Lograry very lead pastr. From ling those with food insecurities.	AED/CPR Training Class 1- 4 \$35 RSVP	RSVP for Ladies Fall Gathering M Lessons 8-12 Overeaters 10:30
26 Reformation Sunday Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45	Deadline for All Saints' Sunday forms	28 Ministry Team 10:30 Care Team 12:30 Erie Conference Shared Ministry Mtg 6:00 @ LM	29 Tops 9-11 M Lessons 7:30- 8:30	30	happy Hallowen	Nov 1 Turn clocks BACK 1 hour tonight FALL
Nov 2 All Saints' Sunday with Bishop Papson preaching Worship 9:30 Choir 9 & 10:45	A Lovina		⁻ Mission State ng in Faith, Sh	ement: naring the Hope	of Christ!	Nov 1 WELCA Fall Gathering 10-1 Luther Memorial RSVP by 10/25 See page 11.

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Woodland Quilters Quilt Show @ Lutherlyn

October 18-19

Come and enjoy a weekend display of quilts and quilting in the autumn splendor at Lutherlyn!





Hall. Find inspiration at our "Make it & Take it" table with a simple, guided project. Browse a selection of fabrics and handcrafted goods from local vendors at the Woodland Quilter's Flea Market. You're also invited to enter for a chance to win a lovely Dream Basket or a handcrafted quilt.

Admission is \$7/person, and all proceeds benefit Lutherlyn's Annual Fund.

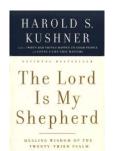
Funds Needed for Lutherlyn Camperships

Many years ago, Lutherlyn made the promise to never turn a child away from summer camp for financial reasons. This promise remains never broken thanks to the support of congregations, foundations, individuals, and families. If you are able, we hope that you will consider making a gift to Lutherlyn's Annual Fund which provides camperships for the families who need them.

Each summer thanks to donor support Lutherlyn provides more than \$60,000 in financial assistance. Your gift will allow Lutherlyn to keep this vitally important promise next summer! Please donate now.

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The Shepherd Heals our Wounds: A special 4-week special interest course lead by Damian Santabene and Pastor Karen continues on Thursdays, October 2, 9 and 16 at 1:00.



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. 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.



October Birthdays

10/05 Peggy Kaeberlein 10/07 Marcia Santabene 10/09 John Coleman 10/13 Raelyn Loutzenhiser 10/16 Jacque Holmberg 10/18 Carol Korn 10/19 Ann Louise Bitzer 10/22 Ernie Robinson 10/22 Macy Loutzenhiser 10/24 Trudy Mueller 10/25 Kathy Coleman 10/27 Joshua Paris

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October Anniversaries

10/12 Rick & Therese Penn - 40 yrs.

10/24 Matt & Sally Zill - 55 yrs.

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Don't Forget to Turn your clocks BACK 1 hour on Sat. November 1st

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Abiding Hope said "Farewell" to two wonderful members in September.

Richard Brucker – Sept 11th David Parsh ~ Sept 3rd

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





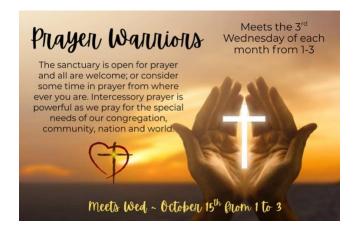












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