



2025 Annual Report

Annual Meeting
Jan 18, 2026~11 am



 *Abiding Hope*
Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd~Erie, PA 16506
www.abidinghopeerie.org

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Staff & Leadership

Pastor

The Reverend
Karen Parsh

Office Assistant

Denise Miller

Coordinator of Music

Sheryl Williams

Sexton

Jeff Neely

2025 Church Council

President

Andy Saska

Vice President

Penny Gresh

Secretary

Analee Cree

Treasurer

Michele Rion

Financial Secretary

Cindy Filson

2026 Council Members

Pastor Karen

Rich Filson

Lois Kuhns

Diana Stoker

Jo Zeimet

Barb Ruhlman



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Pastor Karen's Report

Dear beloved family of God at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church:

This year in the life of our congregation has been filled with many big and small moments of ministry: from the pageantry of Easter morning worship, with its joyous sounds and large crowds, to the quiet work of the folks who stay behind to clean up after a fellowship event.

I am profoundly thankful for all those big and small moments, and for all of you, who so generously have offered yourselves, your time and your possessions in support of our mission to worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Especially this year. I can't thank each of you enough for being there for Dave and me. In his passing from this life to God's eternal glory, your concern and willingness to go the extra mile for my family has been a life changing experience for us... And then, with my stay at Hamot Hospital over the Christmas holiday, you continued efforts to make sure that my needs and those of our congregation were covered. Thank you for everything!!!

The following pages include wonderful information from our committees about what we have accomplished over the past year.

It is my privilege to highlight a few items of note:

- + **The relationship we share with New Hope has laid the foundation for an extraordinary opportunity to stretch our ministerial borders.** This year we have actively laid the foundation to expand for shared ministry. With our Bishop Papson to cheer us on and our Conference Dean, Jean Kuebler's encouragement and our own Jacque Holmberg and Rick Penn's team support, we are in the process of exploring ways we can make our ministries more visible and better catered to the needs of our people.
- + **Thanks to so many in our congregation who stepped up to support our growing relationship with Temple Anshe Hessed.** Their wholehearted support of our Kearsarge Area Food Pantry has exceeded all expectations. Not only have they offered significant financial support and manpower to the operation of this mission, their Congregation President, Ellie Tannenbaum, is looking to see how they can formalize their giving in the next year to support this vital ministry.
- + **Our Educational Ministry has a devoted following that meets each week for in depth study of the weekly text.** On Thursdays Damien Santabene and I lead a discussion on developing discipleship understanding and skills. It is hoped that within the next several months a weekly grief leadership team will become a reality at Abiding Hope.
- + In our hope to develop Biblical understanding, on the second and fourth Sunday evenings at 7:00, we will be launching a **READ THROUGH THE BIBLE initiative**. Everyone is welcome! Each month there will be reading assignments... and discussions on ZOOM.
- + **Easter Flock will once again allow us to proclaim the Joy of Jesus throughout our neighborhood.** This yearly festival has become a tradition that is supported throughout our community.

At Abiding Hope, we are exceptionally gifted by our elected leaders, volunteers, gifted musicians, and our ever creative and dedicated Leadership Team (which is open to anyone who would like to be part of the ministry.)

Those deserving special mention: council officers - Andy Saska, Analee Cree, Michele Rion, Penny Gresh, Cindy and Rich Filson.... Nancy Cuning, our gifted Office Manager, Denise our beloved secretary and Sheryl Williams our incredible Minister of Music and Choir

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Director.... and the entire team of individuals give so much of themselves to make our congregation are deeply and lovingly appreciated.

The success of our "Sontheimer Art Auction" appeal in 2024/2025 was an incredible adventure. That's why we have been collecting canvas prints from our membership for a spring art festival at Abiding Hope. The funds raised will be used fulfill our Vision for Shared Mission and Ministry - What a blessing to so many individuals!!!

Your generosity and desire to live and grow in your roles as Christ's disciples not only sustains us in our development but also allows our church community to thrive as we engage people beyond our immediate borders to come and join our multiple ministries.

So, as we step into the new year, I challenge each of you to continue growing in faith, love, and service, confident that we will overcome any challenges 2026 may bring, emerging stronger and united in our mission to "Share Christ's Love with Joy!"

In God's grace and love, Pastor Karen

"In him we live and have our being". Acts 17:28a



Pastoral Acts

New Members	Received By	Date
Vicki Nagy	Transfer Other	4/6/2025
Beverly Will	Transfer Other	4/6/2025
Jay Zeimet	Transfer ELCA	5/25/2025
Jo Zeimet	Transfer ELCA	5/25/2025
Lydia Rose Scully	Baptism	8/10/2025
Elliott R. Marriotti	Baptism	6/8/2025

Non-Member Deaths	Service / Pastor Parsh	Date
Christian Mueller	Memorial Sp. Hill	4/16/2025
Donald Nordin	Funeral Burton, Quinn, Scott	4/15/2025
Marilyn Bohn	Funeral /LM	
Dee Lasher	Funeral /LM	
Cathy McGregor	Funeral /LM	
Sharon Rossiter	Funeral /LM	
Roger Sturtevant	Funeral /LM	
Susan Jerge	Memorial /AH	11/28/2025

Marriage	Status	Date
Lee & Vicki Nagy Farnsworth	Members	6/21/2025

Member Removals by Death	Service / Meal	Date
Jonathon Cree	Funeral & Meal	1/17/2025
Evelyn Senger	Funeral & Meal	3/7/2025
Kenneth Smith	Funeral & Meal	4/8/2025
JoAnna Altvater	No service	6/4/2025
Lawrence Ruhlman	Funeral & Meal	6/30/2025
Esther Klakamp	Funeral & Meal	8/5/2025
Judy Nordin	Funeral	8/20/2025
Carol Heider	Funeral & Meal	8/26/2025
David Parsh	Funeral & Meal	9/3/2025
Richard Brucker	Funeral/FH/Meal	9/11/2025
Judith Johnston	Cemetery service	11/5/2025
Daniel Kaeberlein	Funeral & Meal	12/25/2025

Deleted Members	Deleted by	Date
Caitlyn Cree	Request	5/5/2025
Justin Cree	Request	5/5/2025
Albert Gesler III	Transfer ELCA	6/7/2025

50th Anniversary Vow Renewal	Status	Date
Damian & Marcia Santabene	Members	9/27/2025



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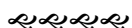
Congregational Meeting - December 14, 2025

The weather was not on our side, yet we are thankful for the members who came. This meeting goal was to discuss and accept the 2026 budget as well as other issues.

- There are 2 openings on council. Barb Ruhlman and Jo Zeimet accepted the nomination and will join council in January 2026
- The nominating committee will be Nancy Cuning and Lon Jenkins
- Synod convention representatives will be Rick Penn and Judi Pacileo.
- Audit team - Jacque - Donna - Nancy
- A decision not to participate in Erie Gives in 2026 was made

Please plan on attending January 18 for the Congregational Meeting following the service. It is a recap of the committees and a good time to gain understanding of what it takes to keep the doors open and the word of Christ being spread.

Respectfully submitted by - Analee Cree /Council Secretary



Congregational Meeting January 26, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Andy Saska and prayer by Pastor Karen Parsh.

The meeting started on a high note as Lee Farnsworth announced that he and Vicki plan to marry June 21, 2025, and Vicki will be joining Abiding Hope. Beverly Will has also requested to become a member.

Andy started the meeting with referral to deleted members on Page 8 of the Congregational Report. It was explained that per our Constitution, members must commune and donate at least once every three (3) years. Last year we reported 204 members due to inactive members still on the rolls. If there is a concern, members can be moved to Associate Member. These members have no voting rights. Gary and Andrea Watson and Jeffery Paris were requested to be re-instated as Associate Members. If others are brought to the attention of council, they will be addressed.

A request to review the minutes from the February 18, 2024, and December 15, 2024, Congregational meetings. After reviewing, a motion by Paul M. and a second by Damian S. to accept the minutes. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

- 1. Project Reports** – No comments
- 2. Altar** – No comments
- 3. Care Team** – Contact Jacque Holmberg if you are interested in joining. It is preferable for teams to make the visits. Reminder that there is a basket of items to choose from to take to homebound.
- 4. Christian Ed** – The Saska girls were confirmed. Working on Easter Flock.
- 5. Finance** – Keeping on track
- 6. Hospitality** – Wonderful caring group, going above and beyond.
- 7. Kearsarge Food Pantry** – Hit and miss with items from the Food Bank. Rich Filson has taken the reins from Bill Overmoyer. A round of thanks to Bill for all his years of

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dedication to this outreach. Now serving over 100 families, which comes to 350+ people. Rich wants them to feel welcomed and go out feeling like a friend.

8. **Ministry Team** – Still meeting at 10:30 on Tuesday, all are welcome.
9. **Prayer Shawl** – Jeanne started this group back up, meeting the first and third Monday of the month from 10:00 – Noon. Currently working on 60 prayer squares to be included in the brown bag lunches on February 23 for the homeless at St. John's. See Jacque to sign up to help making the lunches.
10. **Property** – Parking lot light and electronic sign both required repair this year. Fortunately, some parts on both lights were under warranty. The hot water tank needed repair. Elevator sensor is still an issue and stove is getting fixed.
11. **Outreach** – No comments
12. **Bethany** – Collections continue. Reminder that they also take household items and have moved their location to 11th and Sassafras.
13. **Chosen** – Continue to collect shoes. Reminder that they take medical equipment in good condition and that you can also go there for personal needs.
14. **Bethesda** – A carload of items taken there for Christmas. Check website.
15. **Little Library** – Lot of need in our community. Food goes fast. Books are being taken and dropped off.
16. **Prayer Warriors** – Little Library prayer request picked up right away. Advise if you are praying at home for encouragement.
17. **Lunch & Listen** – Ed has stepped down. Looking for someone to take over.
18. **Sontheimer Paintings** – Paintings still for sale. Thanks to the PAPA for help.
19. **Stewardship** – Looking for leadership. Pastor is planning a series of sermons. Members time, talent as well as money are needed. We are the church, part of a larger body. Part of your money goes to the Synod. Synod gives 50% of what they collect to worldwide help. Guideline is that 20% of a churches budget goes to the Synod.
20. **Thrivent** – If you are a member, please advise John or Jacque. They help you manage your money. They don't pay taxes, so that is how they are able to do the \$250 gift for members to use for projects in their church.
21. **WELCA** – Ladies Night Out a wonderful gathering and sharing time. Men's Night Out is happening as well.
22. **Worship and Music** – How blessed we are to have Sheryl. Please do not hesitate to let her know. Think about joining the choir.
 - Pastor had additional comments. Lent is coming. Service is being moved to noon with a soup and bread lunch to follow. Sharing with New Hope/Pastor Clay and services will be at Abiding Hope. Topic is Noah.
 - Lutheranism classes being help at Pastor's house. We need to maintain our fire and keep the fire in our hearts.
 - Would like to see small family groups that meet in homes. Pastor to train people to be group leaders. Contact Pastor if interested.
 - Thank you to Lon for the wonderful year of 2024 recap and Nancy C. for supplying the information.
23. A motion was made by Paul to accept the report, second by Cindy. A vote was taken and motion was passed.

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- 24.** A motion was made by Michele at 11:50 to adjourn. Second by Jacque. Vote was taken; motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by - Analee Cree /Council Secretary



Church Council Recap for 2025

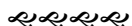
Your elected council members meet once a month, the second Tuesday at 6:30 at the church. Each meeting has an agenda, minutes from the last meeting, financial reports from the treasurer, financial secretary, KAFP report and Pastor's report. These are given to council members prior to the meeting to review. We try to keep the meetings to an hour and a half. Certain positions on council take time commitment throughout the month. All meetings are opened and closed with prayer and prayer concerns, asking for guidance to live our mission.

- We started the year having to transfer \$5,000 from the Mission Investment Account to meet current bills.
- Parking lot lights were fixed. Some parts were under warranty
- Discussion on the need for a Grief Support Group
- Council retreat was held February 9
- Mission statement established – Loving Family – Growing in Faith – Sharing the Hope of Christ
- A business card design was accepted
- Almost \$6,000 above landscaping budget due to bad winter. Campaign to start to help cover this deficit.
- Discussion on 2026 Lenten services
- Parish directory started
- Easter Flock was held with the help of New Hope Presbyterian
- Three quotes were sought to reseal the parking lot. Went with TC Paving.
- Anniversary Celebration held on August 24
- Building Insurance increased by \$60/month. Changed to Erie Insurance – Higher coverage and discount if we pay for the year instead of monthly
- Electric bills high. Looking into LED lightbulbs for downstairs to help cut down on cost.
- Kayla Miller resigned as sexton. Many thanks for all her dedication to keeping our building in tip top shape for years. New sexton, Jeff Neely hired.
- School supplies collected for Bethany and Bethesda
- Contacted sources to see if better return could be made on our Mission Investment Fund as well as alternative insurance coverage for Pastor other than Porteco
- LED bulbs ordered for downstairs (Cost covered by a member)
- No pay raises for employees for 2026
- Motion not to participate in Erie Gives for 2026.

Copies of the minutes can be reviewed by any member of the congregation. If interested please advise Analee Cree, so they can be sent to you. We say **THANK YOU** to Michele Rion and Dave Cunning, for their years of service on council and welcome Barb Ruhlman and Jo Zeimet.

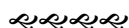
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Respectfully submitted by Analee Cree – Council Secretary



Abiding Hope Committee and Outreach Reports

Note to AHLC membership: Abiding Hope's committees need new members. These committees are the cornerstones of any congregation, and the strength of the congregation depends on commitment from all members. Involvement increases your faith and bond to this family called Abiding Hope. Each person is valued and treasured. Please take time to share your talents and the light of Christ in your life with us.



Altar Committee 2025

As a direct extension of pastoral ministry, the Altar Committee works largely behind the scenes ensuring the altar and sanctuary are clean and ready for worship. Each week, before services, the altar is set in preparation for Holy Communion and worship. Wine is poured into the flagon, gluten-free bread (supplied by Connie Kerr Vogt) is removed from the freezer and placed on the paten, communion trays are re-filled with cups and grape juice. The altar is set, candles are filled with liquid wax and, as the seasons change the narthex banner is changed as well as altar cloths to reflect the color of the current season. Periodically the pew racks are restocked with sharpened pencils and pew envelopes. Pre-consecrated communion sets are available for anyone who prefers. Wine, grape juice, candles and other supplies are purchased as needed by this committee.

In prior years, the Altar Care Team members committed to one month a year to preparing the altar each week for worship. For the last several years this service has been performed predominately by Analee Cree, Mary Randall, and Nancy Cuning. Special thanks to those of you who have served God and our congregation on this committee in the past. If you are interested in serving in 2026, please make either Analee or Nancy aware of your desire to help in this ministry.



Care Team Report 2025

The Care Team's primary mission is to provide personal contact and Holy Communion to our congregation's homebound members and friends each month. Greeting cards are also mailed to members and families acknowledging events such as illness, accident, hospitalization, death, etc., as well as to celebrate life's wonderful surprises and blessings! All Abiding Hope members can help with this by letting the team know of anyone who would benefit from receiving cards or a visit ...AND... a *special thank you* to you who have crafted such beautiful hand-made cards to be sent. Additionally, phone contact is maintained with these folks to better build relationships.

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If you are interested in serving our congregation as part of the Care Team, please contact Jacque Holmberg. A few of our volunteers have had to drop out in 2025 and we would welcome new members. We meet every other month with Tuesday, January 20th at 12:30 pm scheduled as our next gathering. After training, you would be matched with one or more of our 17-20 members to let them know that they are loved, prayed for and actively, constantly connected to the body of Christ.

The Team: Pastor Karen Parsh, Lois Kuhns (council liaison), Barb Ruhlman, Connie Kerr Vogt, Diana Stoker, Judi Pacileo, and John and Jacque Holmberg.



Christian Education / Youth

New Hope Presbyterian Church partnered with Abiding Hope once again for this year's Easter Flock—a family event open for our community. It was attended by an overwhelming number of children/families who participated in games, egg decorating, crafts, face painting along with food trucks, a magician, therapy dogs and a beautiful live lamb! For many children, this is their first introduction to church, and an important event. Lon Jenkins, Nancy Cunning, and Analee Cree organized and were the leaders for this special day, with many volunteers to assist.

On Easter Sunday and the Church Anniversary Celebration, three students affiliated with AH participated in a Church service project creating 60+ treat/gift bags for each celebration that they distributed at the sanctuary door to each person entering.

The colorful "Busy Bags" hanging on a rack in the Narthex by the monitor are regularly checked and updated. These Bible based bags contain hands-on activities for any child that attends our services, keeping them busy throughout our worship as needed, while providing Biblical lessons.

Although there was no Fall Festival this year, plans are already being shared for a potential multi-church event for children and youth during Lent/Easter of 2026!

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kerr Vogt



Christian Education for Adults

Our Adult Ed Ministry for 2025 and 2026 includes a Sunday New Testament Bible Study, a Thursday 1:00 discipleship training exploring a variety of topics and a new for 2026 Sunday ZOOM meeting; Reading through the Bible.

- Early in 2025, Pastor led a well-received class on Lutheranism. Each Thursday at 1pm, Damien Santabene and Pastor lead a discussion on developing discipleship understanding and skills. It is hoped that within the next several months a weekly grief leadership team will become a reality at Abiding Hope.
- In our hope to develop Biblical understanding, on the second and fourth Sunday evenings at 7:00, AH launched a READ THROUGH THE BIBLE initiative. Everyone is welcome! Each month there will be reading assignments and discussions on ZOOM.
- On Sundays after worship a dedicated group, led by Pastor Karen, met to discuss the New Testament. In February, the group began a study of Luke. N.T. Wright's book

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entitled "Luke for Everyone", showed members how they can participate in Luke's story by making it real in our world. In 2026, the group begins an exciting study of the New Testament Book of Matthew. Join them each Sunday after worship for good conversation with friends.

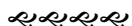


Finance Report 2025

The Finance Committee meeting was held in November to prepare a 2026 budget to present to church council. Everyone from the congregation was invited to attend for serious consideration and deliberation on how to reduce costs for some items in order to keep the budget increase within reason. The proposal was approved by the council via email prior to presenting it to the congregation at the December Congregational meeting. The final 2026 Budget was adopted at that meeting. See the Treasurer's Report/2026 Adopted Budget on pages 23, 24 and 25.

Several members attended the Finance meeting: Pastor Karen, Jerry Vogt, Pricilla Mirone, Rick Penn, Brian Gresh, Penny Gresh, Nancy Cuning, Donna Holder, Analee Cree, Jacque Holmberg, John Holmberg, and Michele Rion.

Submitted by Michele Rion-Treasurer



Hospitality Committee 2025

The Hospitality Committee had another busy year in 2025.

In March, a Mardi Gras event including a Sax-o-Friend saxophone concert was a wonderful success. During Lent we provided soup, bread and desserts for a mid-week lunch for New Hope and AH members. In June the team, with Carolyn Hayes in the lead, honored Lee and Vicki Farnsworth as they celebrated their marriage with friends and family with a reception in the Fellowship Hall. In August AH Hospitality Team hosted an Anniversary picnic with the Flagship Steel Drum Band as well as a Game Night for members and friends. The year was completed by the Ladies Night Out Christmas Party, Babes in Toyland, with 20 festive ladies enjoying a lovely dinner, fun gift exchange and other games with prizes. Thank you Analee and Lauren Steele for coordinating the evening. Throughout the year, the team provided 9 funeral meals to grieving families and their friends following their loved one's services.

Hospitality and Care Team members donated homecooked dinners to be frozen and made available to our sick, homebound and grieving members. Those dinners are still available to anyone in need and are in the lower-level kitchen freezer.

Coffee hour was enjoyed each Sunday by the congregation with special emphasis on 2 summertime baptismal celebrations. Thank you Analee Cree, June Morey and Mary Randall for supporting this ministry.

Our talented leader, Carolyn Hayes resigned as Hospitality Coordinator in September. We thank her for her hours of service and dedication to Abiding Hope. She will be missed.

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A huge hug and many, many thanks to all the people that contributed their time, talents, food and money this past year to make this labor of love possible. We couldn't have done it without all of you. May God bless you and keep all of you.

Nancy Cuning - Hospitality Team member



KAFP 2025 Year in Review

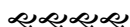
2025 was a good year for Kearsarge Area Food Pantry. We have reliable and hard-working volunteers – probably averaging 20 people each week. Most are there every week. We were able to purchase another commercial freezer. New Hope Presbyterian Church provided the funds for the purchase. With commercial grade freezers and refrigerator, we are able to do “food rescues” from various stores when available and store the items until we use them. We were able to get Kelly green aprons with our logo on them and name tags for the volunteers giving out the food. It gives a “professional touch” and they look great!

We had other donations this year from Erie Gives, New Hope, Temple Anshe Hesed and, of course, Abiding Hope. Our shoppers have been leaving with more food than before – and bigger smiles. The donations of money and gift cards we receive allow us to purchase items we cannot get from Second Harvest. We have also had food donations – some large and some small – but everything that is donated is used. The 3 congregations have been very generous – and it shows on our “shoppers” faces.

Going into 2026 things are looking up. Our grant from Second Harvest increased so we are able to purchase higher priced items from them – leaving donated money to buy other healthy food.

We saw growth in 2025 and will continue that through 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, Rich Filson ~ Director KAFP



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KAFP Financial Report for 2025

Income sources: \$21,420.17

- Temple Anshe Hased, Abiding Hope Lutheran, New Hope Presbyterian, Private Donations and Memorials, Crop Walk and Erie Gives Day.

Expenses: \$12,806.68

- A second large freezer was purchased
- Food purchased from Second Harvest and local stores
- Food transportation costs

Annual shopper totals for 2025:

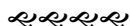
- Combined households: 1,149
- Combined individuals: 3,811

Bank balances (check book)

- Beginning balance-Jan 1, 2025: \$2,951.12
- Ending balance-Dec 31, 2025: \$11,564.49

Financial books will be audited in 2026.

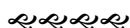
Submitted by: Carol Thomas-KAFP Treasurer



Ministry Team Report – 2025

This "Team" meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in Pastor's office and is open to any member who would like to join. This varied group of members continues to support Pastor Karen (remember she is part-time) as well as the congregation of Abiding Hope. About 6 members on average and our secretary, Denise, meet to discuss and brainstorm. Each meeting is started with prayer for direction to meet the needs of our congregation and community. Review of shut-ins and their needs (Thank you Jacque for heading this group) - Easter Flock (Working on continuing in 2026 with the help of Mt. Calvary and New Hope). What needs to be put on our monthly calendar - Is our Facebook - Sign - Website up to date? - Prayer List and most important the needs in our congregation. Thanks to the ideas from this group, we continue to outreach to our community inside and outside of our doors. The Little Library is growing; Prayer Shawls is active and there is attendance at Ladies Night Out by ladies outside of our congregation. This group has been very active in planning events and bringing things to the attention of council that need to be addressed. **There is always room for more and all ideas are welcomed.** They are respected, discussed and many have been put into action. If you can come on any Tuesday, please do.

Respectfully submitted by: Analee Cree - Team Member



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Prayer Shawl Gatherings 2025

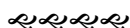
Prayer Shawl Gatherings continued in 2025 for the members and non-members as well. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month in the Conference Room from 10 to 12noon. A group of ladies meet for prayer, good conversation, knitting and crocheting shawls, prayer squares, and lap robes for the homebound.

Members are invited to start a project or complete a new project or complete one not quite finished. Experience not necessary, yarn and instruction available to all.

The purpose of this ministry has been to present a tangible example of prayers and faith. These lap robes, shawls and blankets are gifts of healing or celebration and presented to those within our congregation, relatives, friends and those in need.

We are grateful to those who continue to make the shawls on their own and donate them to the Ministry.

Submitted by Jeanne H. Tropper



Property Report 2025

Maintenance and improvements were made to our building and grounds during 2025 and are as follows:

- Cross Schultz LLC Grounds Management continued to do our snowplowing, sidewalk shoveling and salting in winter as well as our spring and fall lawn clean up and summer mowing. Due to increased snowfall our annual costs far exceeded our budget. AHLC members gave donations to help cover the increased cost. Looking at other options for 2026. Contract expires in March 2026.
- LED light bulbs for the lower level of the building were purchased to help reduce our electric costs. Special thank you to the AH member who paid for this major upgrade. Thank you to Andy Saska for installing the light bulbs.
- Contracts for groups using the Community Rooms were elevated and updated. Building use fee is now \$75/4 hours and increase from the \$50/4 hour fee.
- An additional new commercial freezer was purchased by KAFP in 2025 to economize on electricity costs.
- During 2024 the building was utilized by the community by offering free community events such as Symphonic Singers Concert, the Steel Drum Band Concert, the Easter Flock, Rummage Sale, Voting and a free Holiday Grief Support Seminar that was well attended. Our building is also used by several non-profits as well as the Kearsarge Food Pantry. Events such as this raise awareness of our church and witness to Christ love within our community.
- TC Paving was hired to reseal our parking lots at a cost of less than \$5,000.
- A sign was purchased by Cindy and Rich Filson for KAFP and installed at the Pacific St entrance. Food Pantry doors were also repaired by the Filson's
- Parking lot lights were repaired with some parts under warranty.
- New toilet installed upstairs
- Motion lights were installed by a member in all bathrooms. Thank you to this member.

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- Our building insurance increased significantly. We moved both Workman's Compensation and Building insurance to Erie Insurance saving money with better coverage and discount if we pay for the year instead of monthly
- A painting by Milton Sontheimer was donated to AH from son, Paul Sontheimer, and hung in the narthex. Ed Senger donated a painting of the Last Supper owned by his mother Evelyn Senger. It was hung in the Prayer Room.
- A work bee was held in July to clean up and spruce up our Building. Thanks to all who helped.
- Our elevator was regularly inspected and repairs were made.
- Fire extinguishers need to be located and inspected and the locations listed by the AEDs.
- Our Little Free Library & Food Pantry continues to allow youth and adults free reading materials and non-perishable food items to those in need. Connie Kerr-Vogt continues to keep the Free Library stocked with donations of books and food donated from our AH family. See report on pages 16 and 17.
- Donated geraniums were planted in the front gardens.
- The Little Library was repaired to handle our inclement weather.
- Kayla Miller resigned as Sexton and Jeff Neely was hired to replace her.

Special thank you to Kayla and Emily Miller and Jeff Neely for all their efforts to keep keep our building clean and to all volunteers who help to keep our building and grounds clean and in good condition.

Submitted by Nancy Cuning and Analee Cree



Outreach Program Reports

Below are reports of just some of Abiding Hope's many Outreach/ Mission programs.

Easter Flock is included in Christian Education / Youth Report. Other programs that are important to the outreach and internal member education are:

- the narthex and Fellowship Hall electronic bulletin boards (televisions), are primarily viewed by our congregation. Having it on during various events showcases the variety of activities we offer and updated regularly weekly by Lon Jenkins. The FH TV is also used to show videos, such as The Chosen, to the congregation. If you have an idea for increasing use of these TVs, please let a council member know.
- the AH website, www.abidinghopeerie.org, is updated by Nancy Cuning.
- Facebook, updated with graphics by Lon Jenkins and used to post videos of Sunday services.
- the W Grandview sign, is updated regularly by Office Assistant, Denise Miller
- the newsletter and calendar, produced by Nancy Cuning, inform our members each month and is posted on the website as well as an Outreach vehicle.
- Email updates to the members, attenders and friends of AHLC include graphic ads designed by Nancy Cuning and Lon Jenkins, keep members

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and non-members informed.

- Donating school supplies for Bethany Outreach and Bethesda kids as well as donating bottled water and sports drinks to our thirsty Millcreek Police Dept.
- Flagship Steel Drum Band and Gem City Concerts, Rummage Sale, Crop Walk, Sloppy Joe supper at Holy Trinity and other events not mentioned in this section, are examples of other ongoing outreach.

Additional Outreach Reports are printed below.



Bethany Outreach

2025 was another year of outstanding support for these non-profit organizations. Bethany had been located in the once Bethany Lutheran Church on East 10th Street. They have relocated to 204-A West 11th Street. This organization services inner city family needs at no cost. They have a Food Pantry on Wednesday and Clothes Closet on Tuesday and Wednesday. They service over 400 families through the Food Pantry and over 2,000 visits to the Clothes Closet. All items are no cost. All the clothing and household items that members have donated have been well received and appreciated. There have been many trips made to deliver these gently used items, with comments like "Oh this will be gone tomorrow." Have a used car seat still in good condition, they will take it. No longer using a crib, toys, frying pan, dishes; all these items can be donated. So, when you are Spring cleaning, or just wondering "why am I keeping this", think Bethany. Leave items in the mailroom and I will get them delivered. They also welcome cash donations and told me paper products are always needed. Analee Cree



Bethesda Christmas Giving Project

Once again, AHLC participated in giving Christmas gifts to deserving youth at Bethesda Lutheran Services in Meadville, many of whom have never experienced a traditional family Christmas. AHLC donated gifts of clothing, toys, sporting goods, crafts, toiletries and gift cards to youth from infants in the Right Start program to young adults in need both on campus and off campus. Once delivered and sorted the gifts were distributed to non-resident youth at the annual Christmas party and to resident girls on Christmas day.

Thank you, Abiding Hope, for so generously giving to others in need. Nancy Cunning



Chosen

Chosen is located at 3638 West 26th Street and is a non-profit Healthcare Ministry. Started over 56 years ago, they have aided over half the globe. They have done over 70 Mission trips in various countries around the world. We have been collecting gently used shoes (pairs only) for many years, Thank You! They are sent to countries where needed and available for local residents seeking footwear. Did you know that they also take gently used medical equipment? Not only will they take these items, but you can also go there to see

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if they have an item you need. If possible, they appreciate a donation yet not required. So, what do you do with those crutches, raised toilet seat, shower chair, adult diapers, wheelchairs, walkers? Donate them to Chosen. You can drop off items at their location anytime or leave items in the mailroom and I will get them there. They have a team that checks them out, does any repairs and remember they are available for anyone in need. Looking for a place to volunteer? Checkout their website for more information.

Respectfully submitted by Analee Cree



Little Free Library/Pantry

The Little Free Library is now a bit over two years old and has a growing number of visitors! The camera monitors usage, which is now at approximately 35-40 visitors per week. Books are regularly exchanged and the pantry has become extremely helpful to our neighbors, especially since fall arrived. A new sign on the library shares information regarding the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry and the requirements for those needing regular food security.

Bibles, daily Bible reading guides, children and teenage Christian books are included in the library. "Little Jesus" figurines and AH welcome cards are also included and continually replenished.

The camera really tells the story of the library, recording regular visitors who 'talk' to the camera with thanks and waves. The outstanding stories each month are shared in our monthly church newsletter. These stories confirm that there are needs in our own community of which we are mostly unaware and verify that our church is supporting a powerful ministry. Many of our visitors make their own book and pantry donations along with our generous congregation.

During the summer, there was a noticeable increase in visits by families. Reading Series books as well as educational workbooks for children and youth were extremely popular. Analee Cree applied for a grant via WELCA, and we were honored to receive a generous \$150 grant for the library! (Blessings to Analee!) These funds permitted the purchase of nearly 75 age-appropriate workbooks for elementary/middle school students along with pencils/crayons that were made into "packets". They are placed three at a time in the library and have been taken with many smiles! This initiative will assist literacy support to our community for months to come!

Invitations to the Little Free Library are sent out regularly via Next Door, and Denise daily posts invitations on the electronic sign in front of the church.

The library is physically monitored several times a week (usually daily). It is regularly re-supplied and kept organized and inviting. Every book in the library has an Abiding Hope bookmark tucked inside that includes a Bible verse or positive affirmation as well as access to the church website and information. Most of these bookmarks were handcrafted beautifully by members of our congregation! How that is appreciated!

Dave Cuning, who constructed the library, has completed some maintenance this past fall to keep it looking beautiful! Much gratitude to Dave for his efforts and talents!

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Barbara Ruhlman offered much of her time this fall to monitor the library/pantry in my absence, for which I am most grateful!

Our donation list is expanding to accommodate current needs that are noticed. Along with books/magazines and food donations, there is currently an almost desperate need for gloves, winter hats, socks and scarves as many visitors to the pantry arrive during the night with an obvious lack of these items. The monthly newsletter and Parish Notes contain updates on the needs, progress, and stories of the Library/Pantry.

Our congregation has been incredibly supportive and generous with their donations, all of which are GREATLY appreciated beyond what can be expressed! The church should take great pride in their work to care for our immediate neighbors and community through this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kerr Vogt



The Little Jesus Project

This ministry was newly created this year as a means for all our congregation to become Ambassadors for Christ by leaving small Jesus figurines in public places. Common places were/are park benches, waiting rooms, public lobbies, libraries, elevator railings, restaurant seats, playgrounds and along park trails. Each "Little Jesus" is sealed in a weatherproof bag and also contains a welcome card to our church and a brief introduction to Jesus. The "Little Jesus" packets are in the Narthex, and our congregation is encouraged to take as many as they would like each week to help someone "find a little Jesus".

Nearly 300 were distributed in 2025, and the initiative will continue into the new year.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kerr Vogt



Prayer Warriors

A welcomed few have joined us on occasion, and we are aware there are some praying with us from home. We believe God honors intercessory prayer and are committed to it and its powerful impact on the needs of all.

The addition of The Prayer Box in The Little Free Library has expanded the Prayer Warrior's opportunity to pray for the needs of our surrounding community and we do receive occasional prayer requests, which are honored.

Our congregation is encouraged to pray with us on these days for whatever amount of time they can offer. Respectfully submitted by Jerry Vogt and Connie Kerr Vogt

Shared Ministry Task Force Report

The Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC), currently headed by the Rev. Jean Kuebler, established a Shared Ministry Task Force in 2025. This task force includes representation, both pastoral and lay, from all congregations that are in the Erie Conference. The Task Force met several times throughout the year. One of the main outputs of the Task Force in 2025 was

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the results of a conference wide Mission Profile Survey. Some of the key takeaways include:

- 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

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. Current action items include:

1. to identify our youth leaders and form a conference-wide youth ministry team to prepare for the 2027 Youth Gathering.
2. for Bishop Papson to call a meeting with all the rostered ministers and ALWLs in our conference.

As our conference weekly attendance numbers continue to remain the same or dwindle, it is imperative that we start looking at ways we can do shared ministry. This task force was established to do exactly that. I will continue to keep everyone updated.

Respectfully submitted by Rick Penn, Abiding Hope task force representative.



Stewardship 2025 Summarized

The pattern of God's action and our response is the rhythm of our life of faith. We are loved, and so we love. We are fed, and so we feed. We are forgiven, and so we forgive. Our faith is lived out in our life together in the church and in the world.

As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, your contributions reflect the understanding that we are called into the world –wherever God's people or His creation are in need. Much of the contribution goes toward aid to those who are hungry, homeless or impoverished. Our presence is felt all over the world – teachers – on college campuses, advocates for human rights, nurses and doctors, pastors, construction workers – you name it – we are people meeting the needs of people living in hardship.

Our challenge to follow Christ as good stewards, begins and ends as we grow in wisdom and knowledge about how we accomplish our responsibilities in God's service *We can rededicate (or consecrate) ourselves to these goals. We are never too young / old to serve and learn... we are never too old / young to be an active vital part of our worshipping community.*

You are a precious child of Almighty God redeemed and sanctified through his grace! God is continually working in and through you - giving you grace and strength as well as enlightenment to understand His marvelous love for you in Christ. The result is a sense of being filled with the fullness of God- and empowered to accomplish his purpose here and now.

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So, how are you using the time, skills and wealth that have been entrusted to us by God? Are we using them in a way that serves Christ and the people he loves? Or are we finding it a whole lot easier to let someone else do the work? It's so easy to find excuses why we can't help, it's easy to forget that we have ALL been called to serve and we all have abilities.

We are NOT the only aging congregation in our community... if we want to accomplish God's Mission here at Abiding Hope, WE HAVE TO DO OUR PART.

These are critical times...for action, thought and prayer.

Putting the budget together was difficult (as it is for all of us)! But everyone has agreed to pitch in and shoulder the basic expenses and requirements of keeping our doors open. Salaries held the line and folks stepped up to the plate to serve on committees.

Our challenge to thrive into the future requires us to:

1. Do our best to give financially (we will not be doing Erie Gives, because it ties up finances and prevents us from having adequate funds on an ongoing basis.)
2. Volunteer when volunteers are requested
3. Get involved in property or service projects or educational experiences
4. Grow in faith as our understanding of the Gospel grows, we become more effective in reaching the goals that God has set for us.
5. We especially are looking to share ministry with several churches in Erie. Our relationship with New Hope and the Jewish Temple has shown us that the more we have helping, the more we can accomplish. As 2026 unfolds, look towards some exciting opportunities that we can share with our brothers and sisters in faith.

Ephesians 1:15–23 *That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength! (The Message Bible)*



2025 Annual Report of Thrivent Financial

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church has received money from the *Thrivent Choice Dollars®* program since its inception. (Amounts may be found in the annual Financial Secretary's reports.) Thank you to the Thrivent Financial members who directed their portion to Abiding Hope. This money was used to meet the congregation's general operating expenses. **If you are an eligible Thrivent member**, you may still have 2025 Choice Dollars® available which may be directed through March 31, 2026. Just call 1- 800-THRIVENT, or your Thrivent financial advisor to ask about this.

Action Teams are Thrivent's way of helping fraternal members support the causes they are passionate about and to strengthen the local communities through fundraisers, educational events, or service activities. If you are eligible for this benefit – **please do not**

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let it go unused! If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, please identify yourself to John or Jacque Holmberg. Even though Thrivent no longer has named congregational coordinators, we could help you brainstorm your ideas and help you to begin your application process.

In 2025 Thrivent Action Team funds were used by our volunteers for several projects, including these: sponsoring the AH anniversary luncheon featuring the Steel Drum Concert Band; two different times we prepared bagged meals (PB&J!) for our local homeless population to eat at the East-side Erie shelter on cold, winter nights; small gifts were given to our homebound at Christmastime; a full "Sloppy Joe Dinner" for homeless/transient folks was served (actually donated to Community Shelter Services!); and supplies for our Easter Flock outreach were purchased. If you sponsored any other Action Team project in 2025, please let John and Jacque know.

Thank you to the many volunteers who worked on these projects - AND to the many participants!

If you have any questions about Thrivent Financial, just contact one of our local Thrivent financial representatives, Vince Kremer or Terry Hokaj.



Women of the ELCA (W/ELCA) & Ladies Night Out! Report 2025

All women of the congregation and their friends are *already* a part of this church women's fellowship. You qualify! You are a woman, and you are connected to the ELCA.

It is good to get together to deepen our friendships - to console each other when needed and to share some great BIG laughs. In 2025, we enjoyed meals together at The Cornerstone, Venango Valley Inn, Madeline's, Ricardo's, Syd's, Cheddars, Bullfrog, and other local restaurants. Our Annual Christmas Party was at Abiding Hope! A huge thank you to the ladies who prepared for that special event. The theme was Babes in Toyland, gifts were exchanged, and donations to The Refuge were received. (deodorant, twin-bed sheets and stuffed animals) Attendance usually varies from about 14-24 ladies and meals are all "Dutch-treat". *NO agenda!*

Ladies of the church are always invited to participate in women's events at the synodical and conference levels for meetings and retreats- a fall Camp Lutherlyn retreat and the annual springtime convention at Olmsted Manor. Jacque Holmberg attended the Fall Erie Conference Gathering at Luther Memorial where the speaker was a Master Gardener speaking about native plants.

Women of the ELCA: Our Purpose Statement

"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."



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2025 Worship & Music Committee Report

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for planning and providing a variety of worship and liturgical settings, musical offerings, altar care, decorations and worship leaders for weekly worship and events throughout the church year.

Abiding Hope's Choir provided weekly anthems on three to four Sundays each month, as well as for special festivals and holidays. We mourned the loss this year of former choir members Judy Johnston, Judy Nordin, David Parsh, and Evelyn Senger, and they are dearly missed. We also have also been without several other loyal members this past year due to illness, travel, and relocation, and they are truly missed as well.

Special music throughout the year was offered by various members of the congregation, and family and friends of the church at various services when the choir was on hiatus. We thank Howard Lyon, Maria Lyon, and Paul Sontheimer for providing beautiful string music each month, Brian Gresh and Paul Mirone for accompanying weekly services on acoustic and bass guitar, and Cindi Reid for her expertise on clarinet! As always, we express our appreciation to Pastor Karen for providing beautiful flute accompaniment to the liturgy each week.

In February, we had a Mardi Gras celebration immediately following worship on Transfiguration Sunday before the start of the Lenten season. The Hospitality Committee served a delicious variety of refreshments and goodies, as well as festive decorations, and beads and hats to wear, followed by a concert by "Sax-o-Friends," who provided a variety of lively and entertaining music on various saxophones with percussion. A good time was had by all!

Abiding Hope offered two (2) Ash Wednesday services, and combined Wednesday and Good Friday services were held at our church with Pastor Clay and Pastor Karen presiding.

In May, the church hosted the annual Spring Concert of the Symphonic Singers of Erie, conducted by Jean Verdecchia, which was followed by an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

While the choir was on hiatus during the summer months, we had a variety of special musical offerings, and in July, our neighboring musicians from Our Lady of Peace rejoined us to accompany worship, adding another dimension to our worship service!

The Choir returned to its regular schedule in September, and October was Pastor Appreciation Month, when leaders of the church laid hands-on Pastor Karen while Damian Santabene offered a prayer of thanksgiving, expressing our sincere appreciation for Pastor Karen's loving guidance and care.

Throughout the year, we were blessed to have the church beautifully decorated for the various church festivals and seasons by Lon Jenkins and Nancy Cuning. The vibrant colors of the Holy Spirit were suspended from the ceiling for Reformation Sunday, followed by a vision of white and gold for All Saints Sunday the very next week. On this Sunday, we were privileged to have Bishop Kristen Papson preach the sermon, and members were given the opportunity to sign a Memory Book and light a candle in honor of a loved one.

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On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, members of Abiding Hope were invited to attend a combined Thanksgiving dinner of fellowship hosted by New Hope Presbyterian Church.

We returned to traditional Advent services and music this year, with a backdrop of two beautiful Christmas trees behind the altar. Our annual Christmas Eve service was moved earlier to 4:00 pm, and the church was full! Special music was offered by vocalist Janet Getson, clarinetist Cindi Reid, and selections by the Choir. Bishop Kristen Papson offered to lead us in worship, which culminated in the traditional candle lighting during the singing of "Silent Night."

On the last Sunday in December, we celebrated Christmas with a Service of Lessons and Carols led by our own "Pastoral Intern," Rick Penn!

The Worship and Music Committee would like to thank those who have faithfully set the altar each week for Communion, those who assist during and after worship, and those who quietly volunteer to help whenever needed! A special thank you to Analee Cree and her committee who provide weekly coffee and refreshments in the narthex, and to our faithful hospitality volunteers who prepare delicious meals and desserts for special events in Fellowship Hall whenever asked! Abiding Hope is blessed to have such a dedicated family of hard workers!

The music department wishes to thank Pastor Karen, Church Council and the Abiding Hope family for their ongoing, enthusiastic support of all musicians of our church. It is what inspires us to continue to strive to provide quality musical offerings for each worship service.

We also encourage more people to sing in the choir, especially as several of our choir members "fly south" for the winter months and continue to recover from illness. Please consider becoming a part of our music ministry team in 2026! The ability to read music is not necessary - just the desire to "*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!*"

Respectfully submitted, *Sheryl Williams* - Coordinator of Music



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Expense	Actual	2025	\$ over	2026
	Jan - Dec	Budget	Budget	Budget
6000 · BUDGETED MISSION GIVING				
6010 · Mission Support /Benevolence	4,210.00	4,210.00	0.00	4,750.00
6011 · Charitable Gifts/Fire Dept.	300.00	500.00	200.00	200.00
6025 · Kearsarge Area Food Pantry	2,813.00	880.00	-1,933.00	1,920.00
6027 · Missionary Support	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Total 6000 · BUDGETED MISSION GIVING	7,523.50	5,790.00	-1,733.00	7,070.00
6100 · LEARNING MINISTRY				
6110 · Confirmation Camp	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
6120 · Christian Ed Supplies	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
6130 · Vacation Bible School	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
6140 · Youth Ministry	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Total 6100 · LEARNING MINISTRY	0.00	950.00	950.00	500.00
6200 · CONGRGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY				
6210 · Care Committee	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
6230 · Health Ministry	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
6240 · Hospitality	1,068.62	1,000.00	-68.62	1,000.00
Total 6200 · CONGRGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY	1,068.62	1,075.00	6.38	1,000.00
6260 · OUTREACH MINISTRY				
6263.01 · Special Events	475.00	500.00	25.00	300.00
6263 · Evangelism Committee - Other	791.95	1,900.00	1,108.05	500.00
Total 6263 · Evangelism Committee	1,266.95	2,400.00	1,133.05	800.00
6265 · How Sweet the Sound	300.00	300.00	0.00	600.00
6267 · Breeze/Cc/Wix/Canva	1,016.64	400.00	-616.64	1,550.00
6260 · OUTREACH MINISTRY - Other	150.00		-150.00	
Total 6260 · OUTREACH MINISTRY	1,466.64	700.00	-766.64	2,150.00
6300 · SUPPORT MINISTRY				
6310 · Offering Envelopes	275.00	275.00	0.00	275.00
6320 · Stewardship	0.00	75.00	75.00	0.00
6330 · Synod Assembly	577.00	800.00	123.00	900.00
6340 · Erie Gives	185.00	150.00	-35.00	0.00
6300 · SUPPORT MINISTRY - Other	0.00			
Total 6300 · SUPPORT MINISTRY	1,037.00	1,300.00	163.00	1,175.00
6400 · WORSHIP MINISTRY				
6410 · Altar Supplies				
6410.01 · Candles	265.86	350.00	85.00	525.00
6410.02 · Wine	125.25	100.00	-25.25	200.00
6410.03 · Wafers	21.45	100.00	79.55	100.00
6410.09 · Other	44.72	250.00	205.28	60.00
6410 · Altar Supplies - Other	23.84		-23.84	
Total 6410 · Altar Supplies	481.12	800.00	320.74	885.00

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	Actual	2025	\$ over	2026
	Jan - Dec	Budget	Budget	Budget
6420 · Choir Supplies	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
6430 · One license/CCLI	807.00	750.00	-57.00	850.00
6450 · Sundays and Seasons	449.00	500.00	51.00	500.00
6460 · Worship Instruments Maintenance	1,036.00	650.00	-386.00	1,050.00
6470 · Organ Fund (accruable)	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00
6400 · WORSHIP MINISTRY - Other	0.00			
Total 6400 · WORSHIP MINISTRY	2,292.00	2,500.00	208.00	2,400.00
6500 · MAINTENANCE				
6510 · Custodial Supplies	173.51	400.00	226.49	400.00
6520 · Bldg Insurance	6,707.64	2,200.00	-4,507.64	2,907.00
6530 · Repairs/Maintenance	6,183.35	1,000.00	-5,183.35	1,000.00
6540 · Grounds [Snow & Lawn]	16,743.09	12,000.00	-4,743.09	14,000.00
6500 · MAINTENANCE - Other	0.00			
Total 6500 · MAINTENANCE	29,807.59	15,600.00	-14,207.59	18,307.00
6600 · OFFICE SUPPLIES				
6610 · Computer	233.49	500.00	266.51	300.00
6620 · Copier/Ink	522.49	600.00	77.51	500.00
6630 · Postage	438.00	600.00	162.00	400.00
6640 · Office Supplies	189.73	500.00	310.27	300.00
6600 · OFFICE SUPPLIES - Other	0.00			
Total 6600 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,383.71	2,200.00	816.29	1,500.00
6700 · UTILITIES				
6710 · City of Erie Water/Sewer	982.96	800.00	-182.96	1,000.00
6720 · Phone/Internet/Alarms/Elevator	4,482.38	4,500.00	17.62	4,000.00
6730 · General Exterminating	160.38	200.00	39.62	200.00
6740 · National Fuel Gas	1,416.86	1,250.00	-166.86	1,500.00
6750 · Penelec	5,375.76	4,200.00	-1,175.76	5,500.00
6760 · Waste Disposal	419.35	400.00	-19.35	450.00
6700 · UTILITIES - Other	0.00			
Total 6700 · UTILITIES	12,837.69	11,350.00	-1,487.69	12,650.00
6800 · SALARIES & COMPENSATION				
6814 · Supply Pastors	250.00	500.00	250.00	500.00
6815 · Workers Comp Ins	344.23	500.00	155.77	537.00
6817 · direct deposit fees	470.00	384.00	-86.00	500.00
6819 · Accountant	1,097.10	950.00	-147.10	1,125.00
6810 · Compensation & Stipends - Other	0.00			
Total 6810 · Compensation & Stipends	2,161.33	2,334.00	172.67	2,662.00
6820 · Pastor Compensation				
6821 · Salary & Housing	34,881.92	34,882.00	0.08	34,882.00
6823 · Pastor FICA	2,668.00	2,668.00	0.00	2,668.00
6825 · Pension & Healthcare	11,848.69	12,416.00	567.31	8,800.00
Total 6820 · Pastor Compensation	49,398.61	49,966.00	567.39	46,350.00

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	Actual	2025	\$ over	2026
	Jan - Dec	Budget	Budget	Budget
6830 · Pastor Reimbursements				
6831 · Cont. Ed /Book Allowance	813.99	1,000.00	186.01	1,000.00
6833 · Auto Reimbursement	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
6830 · Pastor Reimbursements - Other	0.00			
Total 6830 · Pastor Reimbursements	813.99	2,000.00	1,186.01	2,000.00
6840 · Custodian				
6841 · Custodian Salary	4,258.23	4,357.44	99.21	4,357.44
6843 · Custodian FICA	327.30	333.34	6.04	333.34
6840 · Custodian - Other	0.00			
Total 6840 · Custodian	4,585.53	4,690.78	105.25	4,690.78
6850 · Coordinator of Music I				
6851 · Music 1 Salary	22,501.41	21,090.00	-1,411.41	21,090.00
6853 · Music I FICA	1,731.65	1,613.00	-118.65	1,613.00
6850 · Coordinator of Music I - Other	0.00			
Total 6850 · Coordinator of Music I	24,233.06	22,703.00	-1,530.06	22,703.00
6860 · Substitute & Special Musicians				
6861 · Sub & Spec Music Compensation	300.00	600.00	300.00	150.00
6860 · Substitute & Special Musicians - Other	150.00		-150.00	
Total 6860 · Substitute & Special Musicians	450.00	600.00	150.00	150.00
6870 · Office Assistant				
6871 · Off. Asst. Salary	10,368.18	9,717.54	-650.64	9,717.54
6873 · Off. Asst. FICA	796.60	743.49	-53.11	743.49
6870 · Office Assistant - Other	0.00			
Total 6870 · Office Assistant	11,164.78	10,461.03	-703.75	10,461.03
6800 · SALARIES & COMPENSATION - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 6800 · SALARIES & COMPENSATION	92,807.30	92,754.81	-52.49	89,016.81
TOTAL Expenses	151,972.12	137,519.81	-14,649.95	137,453.81

Abiding Hope 2025 Annual Report

Account Summaries (from monthly Bank Statements)

	Current Account	
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$1,113.18
	Deposits	\$11,024.80
	Erie Gives Day	\$0.00
	Checks and other Debits	\$9,718.47
30-Dec	Bank Balance	\$2,419.21
	Total Uncleared Transactions	\$1,066.44
	Uncleared Deposits	\$0.00
30-Dec	Actual Balance	\$1,352.77
	Building Emergency Fund	
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$1,339.28
	Deposits	\$290.00
	Checks and other Debits	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$1,629.28
30-Dec	Total Uncleared Transactions	\$0.00
	Uncleared Deposits	
30-Dec	Actual Balance	\$1,629.28
	Memorial Savings Account	
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$8,154.99
	Deposits	\$0.00
	Withdrawals	\$0.00
	Interest Earned	\$0.07
30-Dec	Ending Balance	\$8,155.06
	Mission Investment Fund	
1-Dec	Beginning Balance	\$26,441.20
	Deposits	\$0.00
	Withdrawals	\$0.00
	Interest Earned	\$13.43
30-Dec	Ending Balance	\$26,454.63

Submitted by:

Michele Rion, Treasurer

Abiding Hope 2025 Annual Report

2025 INCOME REPORT

Total Income 2025 **\$140,772**
Pledges for 2025 **\$95,216**

2022, 23 & 24 INCLUDED FOR COMPARISON

BUDGETED	2022	2023	2024	2025
Current	\$ 95,027	\$ 108,281	\$ 116,536	\$ 111,468
Mission	\$ 3,961	\$ 4,712	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,937
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,713	\$ 706	\$ 794
Seasonal envelopes	\$ 1,807	\$ 4,336	\$ 1,630	\$ 1,390
Thrivent Choice	\$ 982	\$ 1,225	\$ 631	\$ 1,803
Building Use	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,915	\$ 1,465	\$ 2,044
Candles	\$ 108	\$ 45	\$ 37	\$ 29
KAFP (budgeted amount)	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 880
Miscellaneous*	\$ 1,919	\$ 2,512	\$ 4,765	\$ 3,579
2 nd Mile Giving**	\$ 120	\$ 5,185	\$ 3,715	\$ 1,275
Hospitality	\$ 807	\$ 1,131	\$ 1,319	\$ 2,290
Initial Envelopes	\$ 205	\$ 300	\$ 210	\$ 148
Boscovs	\$ 135	\$ 95	\$ 50	\$ -
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 108,021	\$ 131,750	\$ 135,164	\$ 129,637
UNBUDGETED				
Building Emergency Fund	\$ 2,025	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,955	\$ 4,053
Memorials	\$ 695	\$ 1,180	\$ 5,200	\$ 3,360
Flowers	\$ 1,175	\$ 825	\$ 1,007	\$ 957
KAFP***	\$ 533	\$ 1,920	\$ 1,222	\$ 2,395
5 th Sunday World Hunger	\$ 285	\$ 355	\$ 69	\$ 236
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 185	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 10
Unbudgeted Miscellaneous Income****	\$ 3,259	\$ 140	\$ -	\$ 124
TOTAL UNBUDGETED INCOME	\$ 8,157	\$ 7,575	\$ 10,503	\$ 11,135
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 116,178	\$ 139,325	\$ 145,667	\$ 140,772

* incl. HSTS, Crop Walk, Boscovs, books, classes, Easter Flock, Amazon Smile, Erie Gives etc.

** Plowing, salt, etc.

*** Donations exceeding budgeted amount of \$300 or \$880

*** Budgeted and does not include checks made out directly to KAFP

**** Unbudgeted income from various sources

Submitted by Cindy Filson ~ Financial Secretary