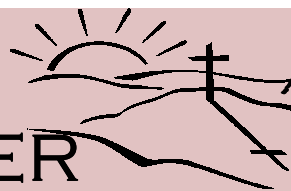


AUGUST 2016

LIFE TOGETHER



Abiding Hope
Lutheran Church

A Message from your Council President

In order to maintain good communication within our congregation, I wanted to take this opportunity to address a few rumors that I have heard over the last few weeks.

First, I have heard from several folks as to "Why didn't the council do more to keep Pastor John?" The first time anyone on council heard anything about John leaving was when he called an emergency meeting to tell us he was leaving. As we have gone through the call process for a new pastor, we have learned that this is actually the way it is done. The leaving pastor does not tell his/her congregation until he/she has already accepted a new call. When Pastor John consulted with the Bishop, the Bishop did suggest options for John including going part-time and taking a sabbatical but John felt the time was right for him to move on. He was with us for 14+ years. The average length of a pastor call in the ELCA is under 6 years so we certainly were blessed to exceed that.

Secondly, I have heard a few complaints of late that no one but the council and the building committee are involved in the construction of the new church. This is just not the case. We have had over 50 different folks involved with several different committees as we have gone through the process. That is over 60% of the congregation!! When we started this process, the council in selecting the building committee, made sure there was a good cross-section of the congregation represented. We have younger and older folks, newer and older

members. The council wanted to make sure as decisions were made that they were made with the entire congregation in mind.



Now, the building committee has certainly been given leeway in making a lot of decisions and rightly so. With all the decisions that have had to happen along with all the things that go into building a new facility, there is no way that all those decisions could be brought to the congregation for individual votes. It would take us 20 years to build a church if that were to happen. Back to the building committee selection process – that is why we ensured a good cross-section of the congregation was on the committee so that everyone's concerns would be heard, reviewed, and considered. In addition, we also have the suggestion box. Every single suggestion was reviewed and considered. The book in the Narthex contains every suggestion that was received along with a response. Not every suggestion could be incorporated in the new design but every one of them was considered.

In just a few short weeks we all will be making a decision on whether to call a new pastor, Pastor Allie Leitzel, or to continue to look for a replacement for John. I ask you to do three things. First, review the site profile (resume) for Allie. Jot down any questions or concerns you have. Review the compensation package in detail so that you understand it. Both of these will be provided

Abiding Hope's mission is to be a loving family...

**LIVING THE FAITH,
SHARING
THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!**

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



"LIFE TOGETHER"

A newsletter from your friends and family at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

5312 Peach Street

Erie PA 16509

814-868-8685

fax - 814-864-3856

Church e-mail:
ahadministrator
@hotmail.com

www.abidinghopeerie.org

**Parish Staff and Leadership****Pastor Emeritus**

Albert U. Gesler, Jr.

Office Assistant

Denise Miller

Financial Secretary

Pat Wenzel

Coordinators of**Music Ministry**

Edwina Gesler

Bob Holderer

Director of**Parish Nurse****Program**

Jeanne Tropper RN

2016 Church Council**President**

Rick Penn

Vice-President

June Beard

Secretary

Jacque Holmberg

Treasurer:

Cheryl Tufts

Members:

Andy Saska

Missy Smith

Don Fuller

Kevin Petrone

A Message from your Council President cont. from page 1

electronically through email and as hard copies available in the Narthex. Secondly, prayerfully consider your vote. Lastly, we need everyone to show up at the August 20th meet and greet and pot luck dinner at 6:15 PM at the church and for the August 21st 9:30 service presided by Pastor Allie. Immediately following the service there will be a congregational vote to call or not call her as our next pastor.

We need ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

This is an exciting time for all of us and as I have said before it is also a stressful time. However, the good Lord never gives us more than we can handle. He certainly challenges us at times but in the end we can make it through anything with his love and grace.

Peace, Rick

Gordon Wunch passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, July 27th at his home. Both he and his wife, Carol Ann, were long time active members of Our Savior's and Abiding Hope and in recent years the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry. A memorial service will be held in Canadohta Lake. Scott Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Gordon will be greatly missed by family, friends and members of Abiding Hope.

Attention Young People: Organ Pedals For Sale

At the back of the church is a sign with all of the notes on the organ pedal board. The pedals on the floor are arranged like the keys on the keyboard. Young people 16 and under may choose a note that they would like to call their own. The long, light pedals are \$10.00 each and the short, sharp/flat pedals are \$5.00 each.

After the organ is moved to our new church, you will then always be able to see your "very own note" every Sunday. Questions/ additional information... please see Edwina Gesler or contact her @ 899-0762.

***Prayer Committee Update***

The Prayer Team met recently and will be turning in the prayers to be included in the September intercession prayers very soon as Denise plans to have everything we will need in the computer before she leaves us for her surgery.

We have reached out to other churches to be included in their prayers, including the North Richmond, PA United Methodist Church who will be the recipient of our pews from 5312 Peach St. In fact, a representative from their church attended a recent Wednesday

worship service. He hopes to have some other members of their church attend another service soon. I found out that North Richmond is just a little south and east of Cambridge Springs, rather out in the country according to them. It is an old church which was built in the late 1800's, so our pews will be going to a very special place.

We continue to ask for your prayers and support as we progress on this journey.



Abiding Hope Council Update

On June 28th the council conducted an interview with Pastor Alison Leitzel. A motion was unanimously approved to move forward with calling Pastor Alison Leitzel.

On July 5th the council met to:

- consider possible compensation package and contract details - should the congregation vote to extend a call to and approve the compensation/contract package for Pr. Allie.
- review the new policy with our State Farm Insurance representative, Doug Cornelius.
- review the phone and internet charges for the new building.
- plan the introduction of Pastor Allie Leitzel

and the congregation, and to set a Congregational Meeting date. (Aug.

20th: pot-luck dinner

with Q & A; Aug. 21st: Pastor Allie leads worship and preaches, and then the congregation votes).

- plan office task coverage while Denise Miller, Office Assistant, is out for surgery.

On July 7th the council met with Pastor Alison Leitzel to discuss the drafted compensation/contract package.

Next council meetings: July 26th, August 9th and 23rd, 2016.



Office Coverage for Denise during her Recovery

Our Office Assistant, Denise Miller, will be recuperating from hip replacement surgery from August 12th through the month of September. June Beard, office liaison for Council, and our Treasurer Cheryl Tufts will be shar-

ing office duties weekday mornings during Denise's recovery. Every effort will be made to keep the office running smoothly in her absence. Please keep Denise and her doctors in your prayers. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Abiding Hope to Deliberate on Calling New Pastor

As we prepare to move into our new facility on W. Grandview Blvd., Abiding Hope Lutheran Church will also be making a decision to call or not to call Pastor Alison Leitzel as our new pastor. The Call Committee and Church Council have interviewed her and the congregation will soon meet her as well.

Pastor Allie will speak to the congregation at a meet & greet, pot-luck dinner on Saturday, August the 20th at 6:15 PM and will also preside at the 9:30 service on August 21st.

After the service the congregation will vote on whether to call Pastor Allie or to continue the search. Please take some time to review her site profile (resume) and the compensation plan Church Council has offered her.

Please plan to be a part of this monumental weekend as we consider calling a new pastor and plan for our move into our new facility.



Abiding Hope Contacts

Ministers

All the members of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Council

Rick Penn-814-460-8457

Parish Nurse

Jeanne Tropper -814-823-1484

Thrivent Financial

Edwina Gesler - 814-899-0762

John & Jacque Holmberg - 814-864-3797

Worship & Music

Edwina Gesler 814-899-0762

Building Committee

Mike Paris - 814-450-3419

Finance

Cheryl Tufts-814-882-6860

Office

Denise Miller - 814-868-8685

June Beard-814-450-1579

Building Maintenance

Bob Hicks - 814-868-8560

Hospitality

Jacque Holmberg
814-864-3797

Mission Committee

Rick Penn - 814-460-8457

Care Committee

Church Council

Outreach Committee

Ed Whitbred - 814-397-0990

KAFP

William Overmoyer-836-1676
& Mary Christie-490-7618

Christian Ed

Missy Smith - 814-490-6323

Altar Care

Cheryl Hicks - 814-868-8560

Stewardship

Church Council

WELCA

Liz Stroup - 814-881-3194

Newsletter

Nancy Cunning -814-833-3109

A LOVING FAMILY...LIVING THE FAITH, SHARING THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!



August Birthdays

8/1	Jaxon Derry
8/2	Charlotte Haggerty
8/4	Mary Huff Cathy Nanz Judi Pacileo
8/5	Andrea Watson
8/6	June Beard Karri Pacileo
8/9	Joe Powell Missy Smith Jeffrey West
8/11	Autumn Dipko
8/12	Joyce Hersperger
8/13	Carly Blanks Jared Blasco Austin Teudhope
8/14	Patricia Wisinski
8/16	Carol Ann Wunch
8/20	Amanda Shuster
8/21	Amber Blanks Norma Henderson
8/23	Caeden DiPlacido
8/24	Carmela Baughman
8/26	Ryland LaRiccia Vince Katarzynski
8/28	Edna Schwenk
8/30	Andrea Saska Julie Saska
8/31	Chris Dipko



August Anniversaries

8/3	Carol and Erik Williamson
8/5	Cathy and Ed Nanz
8/10	Joe and Shirley Bennett
8/12	Chris and Nancy Dipko Ron and Mary Huff Fred and Judy Johnston Scott and Mary Elizabeth Meier
8/18	Mike and Barb Paris
8/20	Kevin & Andrea Petrone Dick and Joyce Brucker

LIFE TOGETHER

PAGE 4

Prayer requests

The following members of the Abiding Hope family are dealing with health issues. If you would like to send a card to let them know they are in your thoughts, addresses are listed in our current directory or call the church office. Please remember: Carol Ann Wunch & Family, Eric Christie, Paula Buchanan & Family, Connie Burgert & Family, Joshua Haight, Hannah Vogt, Dan Ditzel, Carrie Fiske, Marilyn Martin, The Hoehn Family, The Turner Family, Eileen, Joyce Brucker, Chetta Crosby, Mary Anne Grumblatt, Maryellen H., Joyce Her-

sperger, Elmer Lawrence, Mary Sontheimer, Jim Pacileo, Kevin Petrone, Damian Santabene and Evelyn Senger.

A prayer request form is on the table in the fellowship hall. The names of the people you request will remain on the prayer list for four weeks. If you wish for them to remain on the list after four weeks, please submit their names again on another request form.



Project Dignity Monthly Ministry Appeal

Each month Project Dignity is collecting one-of-a-kind, non perishable items. Each month the KAFP hopes to gather enough of a specific item to provide each of our families with that personal care or household item so that our Food Pantry patrons have not only

healthy meals but personal dignity and a clean home. Please donate monthly by dropping your items in the collection basket in the back of the sanctuary.

August item: Cleaning Products



500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod will begin its celebration, marking Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church, on Saturday, October 29th at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, 2402 West Grandview Blvd., Erie at 4:00pm. The speaker will be the Reverend

Hans Kasch, Director of the Luther Center in Wittenberg, Germany. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation will be celebrated with monthly events throughout the synod during this next year, concluding with an anniversary liturgy on Sunday, October 29, 2017.



Prayer Shawl Update

The Prayer Shawl Committee will be taking the summer off and not meet until

September.



A LOVING FAMILY...LIVING THE FAITH, SHARING THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!

Building Committee Update

Well, it's getting close; moving day. Baring unforeseen circumstances, we hope to move into our new church at 2402 W. Grandview Blvd later this month. The parking lot is in and stripped, doors and windows have been installed, the kitchen is ready for pots and pans. Our Sunday school rooms are being carpeted and new speakers are being installed. Our Zion's cornerstone is in place in our new Heritage Room and phone lines installed. The



first week in August, our pews will be installed and our altar cross, organ, grand piano and conference table

will be moved. Soon after, we hope to receive our Occupancy Permit and the move will begin in earnest. Boxes of hymnals, Sunday School items, kitchen dishes and coffee pots, office desks, file cabinets and snow shovels all need to be moved. It is a huge job.

Watch for information on the date of our final service on Peach St. and our first service on W. Grandview Blvd.

So much remains to be done before we can officially move in. Plan to attend the 1st Sunday Fellowship Hour on August 7th at 9:30 AM to learn more. Please offer as you are able to assist and keep the congregation in your prayers. God has a plan for Abiding Hope, let's be ready to go forward with his plan.

WELCA /Outreach Project for Wounded Warriors

Abiding Hope's WELCA group and the Outreach Committee are teaming up with other NWP WELCA groups to collect items for Wounded Women Warrior's Veterans programs. Items will be collected at the WELCA retreat on September 18, 2016 to be distributed by the Erie VA Medical Center.

Items requested include: Women's socks, and underwear (sizes 5-10), panty liners, hair brushes, hair scrunches, puzzles, books,

gift cards from Top's (gas), Wal-Mart or Target and hair cut services. In kind gifts are also requested for Homeless Veterans (both men and women) and include: backpacks, shirts, slacks, sneakers, winter hats and gloves, hand and foot warmers, new boots, shaving cream, shampoo and men's shower gel, notebooks, flashlights, small first aid kits, stamps and envelopes.



Transportation Needed

We would like to be sure that our shut-in's attend our last church service on Peach Street (tentatively scheduled for August 28th) and our Dedication Service on 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. The Dedication Service is scheduled on October 16, 2016 at 3:00 PM.

If you could provide transportation on either or both of these days please contact Carol Whitbred @ 866-6552 or email her at cew6@psu.edu.



August Scriptures

8/1 Colossians 3:18-4:1
 8/2 Colossians 4:2-6
 8/3 Luke 12:22-31
 8/4 Romans 9:1-9
 8/5 Acts 7:1-8
 8/6 Matthew 6:19-24
 8/7 Genesis 15:1-6
 Psalm 33:12-22
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
 Luke 12:32-40
 8/8 Hebrews 11:1-7
 8/9 Hebrews 11:17-28
 8/10 Luke 12:41-48
 8/11 Hebrews 10:26-31
 8/12 Hebrews 10:32-39
 8/13 Matthew 24:15-27
 8/14 Jeremiah 23:23-29
 Psalm 82
 Hebrews 11:29-12:2
 Luke 12:49-56
 8/15 1 John 4:1-6
 8/16 Acts 7:44-53
 8/17 Luke 19:45-48
 8/18 Hebrews 12:3-17
 8/19 Acts 17:1-9
 8/20 Luke 6:1-5
 8/21 Isaiah 58:9b-14
 Psalm 103:1-8
 Hebrews 12: 18-29
 Luke 13:10-17
 8/22 Hebrews 3:7-4:11
 8/23 Revelation 3:7-13
 8/24 Luke 6:6-11
 8/25 1 Peter 3:8-12
 8/26 1 Peter 4:7-11
 8/27 Matthew 20:20-28
 8/28 Proverbs 25:6-7
 Psalm 112
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14
 8/29 Hebrews 13:7-21
 8/30 Titus 1:1-9
 8/31 Luke 14:15-24



First Sunday Fellowship Hour



**Sunday, August 7th
9:30 AM following
the 8:15 AM**

Hosted by the
Christian Education
Committee



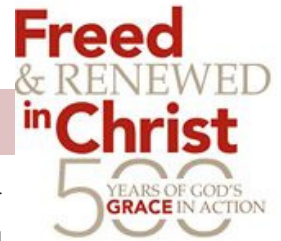
Come and share good
eats and fellowship.
Enjoy an update and
Q & A about our new
church building on
W. Grandview Blvd.

To assist with this coffee
hour contact Missy at
814-490-6323.

ELCA Reformation 500

Freed and Renewed in Christ" will be the theme used by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's churchwide organization in its observance of the 500th anniversary of the evangelical Lutheran Reformation that began with the Ninety-Five Theses that Martin Luther first made public on October 31, 1517. "500 Years of God's Grace in Action" is a tagline that has been incorporated with the theme into a single graphic representation.

The theme and tagline reflect the message of Christian faith's freedom and a renewed life of service to others in Jesus Christ that Martin Luther expressed in The Freedom of a Christian (1520). In that treatise Luther famously wrote that, "A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all" (Martin Luther, The Freedom of a Christian.)



Luther Reading Challenge and Discussion

The Luther Reading Challenge allows anyone anywhere in the world with an internet connection to sign up for a free account, read a new Luther text every week, and join in the discussion. Well over two thousand people from all continents have already signed up.

"Needless to say, the more people who join in this conversation, the better! Our hope is to prepare for a theologically rich com-

memoration of the Reformation in 2017, anchored in a deep and thoughtful grasp of Luther's theology, beyond the stereotypes and summaries."

[#LWFGlobalYoungReformersNetwork](#) [Luther Reading Challenge](#)

[LWF Youth \(The Lutheran World Federation\)](#)

Catechism Treasure Hunt

Be a part of the NWP Synod Reformation 500 Catechism Celebrations. Conduct a treasure hunt of your library to find a unique, old, or precious copy of Luther's Small or Large Catechism. While you're searching, look for a book or curriculum materials that were used for catechism instruction from various eras of

Christian Education and Confirmation in the Lutheran Church. If you find something that is interesting for display and are willing to share it, please contact Pastor Sandra Jones ([814-589-7660](tel:814-589-7660) or sjones@nwpaelca.org). Your items will be well cared for and returned. Thanks and Happy Hunting!

Pastoral Emergencies

In case of pastoral emergencies, and until a new pastor is called, please contact Rick Penn at 864-2426.



A LOVING FAMILY...LIVING THE FAITH, SHARING THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!

ELCAvotes...

E LCAvotes is an initiative to:

- Expand the role of the church in encouraging faithful and non-partisan voter participation by providing faith based resources around voting;
- Provide a framework for all Lutherans to understand and speak out about the intersection of voting/elections, racial/gender and economic justice;
- Provide young adults the tools to understand and speak about what it means to be a young person of faith who is civically engaged; and
- Engage with and equip ethnic communities to talk about voting rights and race and their connection with elections today.

The deadline for voter registration in Pennsylvania for the 2016 election is October 11, 2016.

"[It is] resolved, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to "promote public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens ..." (ELCA Social Policy Resolution "Voting Rights to All Citizens" adopted Aug. 2013) - www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/ELCAVotes.

GREAT STATRT Program

Donations toward Abiding Hope's **Pay it Forward GREAT START Program** are almost half way to our \$30,000 goal. We have numerous families donating toward our landscaping, speaker systems, organ moving, pews, folding tables and chairs, Food Pantry shelving and just giving money towards insuring our new home at 2402 W. Grandview is complete and ready for service to our Lord. Prayerfully consider how you can help.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Highmark Caring Place is a center for grieving children, adolescents and their families. The peer support group programs offered at the Caring Place are provided at no cost to families in the Erie County community, but rely on the dedication of a large group of caring adult volunteers.

We are currently recruiting volunteers. No particular experience is needed – just an ability to truly listen to others and to support them through their heartache and their

healing. Volunteers are provided with the necessary training which gives them an understanding of how children grieve, and of how the Caring Place program works.

If you would like to join a team of compassionate, caring individuals who support grieving children and families, please call **Kristen Huber, Volunteer Services Coordinator at kristen.huber@highmark.com or 814-528-0932.** Training starts in August 2016, so please call soon!

Lutheran World Relief

2016 Kit Drive

Coordinated by
Lamb of God
Lutheran Church
now underway



A flyer with instructions
& September
collection dates on the
Bulletin Board as well as
copies on the table in
the gathering area.
Questions, call Chris
@ 825-8830.

A LOVING FAMILY...LIVING THE FAITH, SHARING THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!

Lutherlyn Activities † September 2016



Fathers and Sons Retreat ~ September 2-3

There's something special about the time that fathers and sons spend together... and for many of us there is altogether too little of that special time available.

Boys need time with men doing "guy things." Boys need time with men doing "faith things." In recognition of these facts of life, Lutherlyn is offering fathers and sons; men and boys, a day that delivers both.

Fathers and Sons Day is for fathers and sons of all ages; for fathers who "borrow" sons and for sons who "borrow" fathers. Every man and boy is welcome.

Saturday is "The Day," but for those who want to come Friday evening there are bonuses. The "Trail of Five Fires" is a powerful worship experience...the forests and fires of the night hold a special magic...and there's the early morning.

Saturday includes large group, small group, and personal activities – nice balance. There is something for everyone. Enough to help you build on your relationship. Enough to build a memory.

Cost: Please see online form program selections

for cost options, or call camp at [724-865-2161](tel:724-865-2161).

Crafty Lady's Getaway

September 6-11, 2016

Pick which days you would like to participate

Registration Deadline - August 26

Need a vacation just so you can get some of your projects complete, tackle that fun new craft you always wanted to try but can't find time for, or take up a new crafting hobby? Here is the opportunity for you! You get to pick and choose how long you would like to join us and we will take care of the rest! Bring your quilting, sewing, scrapbooking, paper crafting, painting, writing, reading, organizing, WHATEVER projects with you and we will make sure you have space to work, time to work, great food to eat (and lots of it), pleasant company to enjoy, optional extra outings and trips to explore, and a relaxing atmosphere to be productive and at ease for your time at Lutherlyn! Join us for the WHOLE WEEK, pick a few days, or enjoy a weekend getaway... you decide!

Cost: Please see online form program selections for cost options, or call camp at 724-865-2161.

WELCA Lutherlyn Retreat ~ September 16, 17 & 18, 2016

The theme for this years NWPA and SWPA Synodical Women's organizations weekend retreat at Camp Lutherlyn is "Act, Love, Walk". Come and join the fun for 1 day or the entire weekend and enjoy Workshops and Funshops. Get to know Lutheran women of faith from all parts of Pennsylvania. Register by August 25th. Additional information and regis-

tration forms are available in Fellowship Hall or by contacting Liz Stroup at 881-3194 or plan to attend this months AHLC

WELCA meeting on **Tuesday, August 16th at 6:30 PM** at Jeanne Tropper's home at 1235 Ponderosa Drive, Erie, PA.



Lay Worship Leaders & Lay Distributors for August:

August 7

Rick Penn
June Beard &
Joe Bennett

August 14

Ed Whitbred
Carol Whitbred &
Kevin Petrone

August 21

Pastor Alison Leitzel

August 28

Jacque Holmberg
Judi Pacileo &
John Holmberg

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

It's almost back-to-school time and you're prepared with your child's enrollment forms, orientation schedules, and immunizations--but what about their eyes?

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month—a great signal for you to get your child's eyes checked before school starts.

Join us as we observe Children's Eye Health and Safety Month in partnership with Prevent Blindness America and the American Academy of Ophthalmologists.

Most children have healthy eyes. But there are conditions that can threaten good vision. Because you can't always "look" into your child's eyes to tell if they have eye health problems, set up some time today for an eye exam:

- Your child's eyes should be examined during regular pediatric appointments and vision testing should be conducted around age three.
- Parents should be aware of signs that may indicate their child has vision problems, including:
 - Wandering or crossed eyes
 - A family history of childhood vision problems
 - Disinterest in reading or viewing distant objects
 - Squinting or turning the head in an unusual manner while watching television

Talk to your child's pediatrician if you suspect your child has any of the eye diseases below:

- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Strabismus (crossed eyes)

- Ptosis (drooping of the eyelid)
- Color deficiency (color blindness)
- Refractive errors (nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism)



Let's Talk Eye Safety:

Use this month to discuss the importance of eye safety with your children.

More than 12 million children suffer from vision impairment, and eye injuries are one of the leading causes of vision loss in children*. There are an estimated 42,000 sports-related eye injuries each year and the majority of them happen to children.

Children should:

- Wear protective eyewear while participating in sports or recreational activities
- Play with age-appropriate toys. Avoid toys with sharp or protruding parts

One of the best ways to ensure your child keeps his/her good vision throughout life is to set a good health example.

To find more information about Children's Eye Health and Safety, visit: www.preventblindness.org www.aao.org

*Nearly 25 percent of school-aged children have vision problems. Of children ages 3 to 5, close to one in 20 has a problem that could result in permanent vision loss if left untreated. The American Academy of Ophthalmology estimates that 80 percent of preschoolers do not receive vision screenings.

Article Courtesy of Jeanne Tropper RN/Parish Nurse



Musical Notes

Choir will practice for upcoming special services each Wed. at 7:40 PM



Once the organ is moved and until it is installed in the new building, we will be playing keyboard music. It is not Edwina and Bob's favorite but we will make do.

Marriage Encounter Weekends

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Time is running out for you to sign up for one of this fall's Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends. All married couples deserve a weekend to escape from daily pressures and responsibilities to search out and discover an even warmer, closer, more joyful marital relationship! NOW is the time to sign up for a Weekend at one of the beautiful retreat centers scheduled this fall:

September 16-18, 2016 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new, hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.

October 21-23, 2016 at the Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA—a lovely, hotel-style retreat center perched on a hillside in the Allegheny National Forest, a couple hours

north of Pittsburgh.

Weekends run from Friday at 8 PM to Sunday around 3 PM and are designed to help you make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your registration fee of \$100, plus a contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. Registrations are limited, so sign up TODAY by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the fee with a credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or [724-325-3166](tel:724-325-3166).



Do you know a member of Abiding Hope who could use a card of encouragement or support? Please communicate with Carol Whitbred at cew6@psu.edu



You Are Invited:
**A Celebration of Ministry
 in honor of
 Randy Gullickson's Retirement
 Sunday, August 21, 2016
 1:00 to 4:30 PM**

1:00—Worship in the Amphitheater
 2:30—Appetizers and Desserts in the Dining Hall
 3:30—Program & Celebration
 4:30—Benediction

Please RSVP by August 1st
deb@lutherlyn.com or 724-865-2161

Feel free to bring a card. Contributions can be made towards a gift at www.lutherlyn.com/donate or send a check with "Randy retirement" in the memo.



A LOVING FAMILY...LIVING THE FAITH, SHARING THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!

It's up...Abiding Hope's website: www.abidinghopeerie.org

The Abiding Hope web-site [abidinghopeerie.org] has been active for about a month. We are now prepared to really begin to make use of it. Currently it contains the nuts and bolts of church functions including contact information, staff information, and council structure, bolts of church functions including contact information, staff information, council structure, and history and standing committees. We all know that this hardly

scratches the surface of what happens on an ongoing basis in our congregational life.

In the near future look for information about our candidate, plans for the closing and opening services, information around the dedication event and all of the STUFF that needs to be done. Please let us know if there is an event or activity that should be included. For now send all information to Ed Whitbred at ejwhitbred@verizon.net.

Eucharistic Ministry

The Service of Distribution of Holy Communion is an extension of the Lord's Supper to those who are unable to be present at the celebration of the congregation. A Eucharistic Minister brings the congregational Eucharist to those unable to participate in the assembly. The following members of Abiding Hope have recently completed instruction with the Rev. Sandra Jones for this ministry: Evelyn

Senger, Pat Wenzel, June Beard, Judi Pacileo, Norma Henderson, Kathleen Lewis, Edwina Gesler, and Jacque Holmberg. Please pray for these folks as they go out to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to our members. And please keep all of our church family members who are unable to participate in the regular worship services (for whatever reason) in your thoughts, actions and prayers.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly - Freed and Renewed in Christ

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. Finding ourselves in Christ, the fourteenth Churchwide Assembly will be a time for us to be the living body of Christ guided by the Spirit and conformed to God's will. We will meet in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 8-13, 2016 to discuss and make decisions about how to go about God's work as a church. Information about engaging with the Churchwide Assembly on social media will be posted on the www.elca.org web site.

Representation from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod include: Pastor Karen

Parsh, Michael Bradley, Emma Chaffee, Judy Lamb, Hannah Spahn, and Eric Graham.

Let us pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its members who gather this month in its Churchwide Assembly. Inspire the celebration of God's varied works throughout the church. Instill your peace in the midst of the work you have called us to and the deliberations that will take place. Shape the work of the church according to your will for the whole world.

***Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.***



Kearsarge Area Food Pantry Volunteers

are urgently needed to cover volunteer vacations and illnesses.

Twice a month the Food Pantry distributes food and other household products to over 60 area families.

For more information contact Mary Christie at 814-490-7618 or 814-796-4115.



A LOVING FAMILY...LIVING THE FAITH, SHARING THE HOPE...OF CHRIST!

A Tribute to Joe Burgert by Judi Pacileo



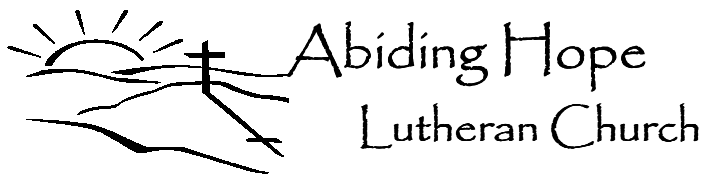
Early Saturday morning (June 25, 2016), God called home a Giant of a man. He will be so missed by so many people. Joe Burgert was my hero. He gave unselfishly of his time and talents. He loved the Lord and he loved his family and he loved music. He was a wonderful choir director, organist, pianist and had a strong beautiful voice. He used all these talents to serve and worship the God he so loved. I can't yet wrap my head around the knowledge that I won't see him again until I join with him and others in that wonderful choir in heaven. He was so patient with my musical shortcomings. When the wrong notes would come out of my mouth, he'd say "that's an option, but let's try it this way". He was gentle, yet he was very opinionated! But he allowed that maybe everyone didn't think his way, they should of course, but he still allowed different opinions. I've known him and loved him since he came to Zion's Lutheran Church, probably about twenty-five years ago. He had a great affinity for the elderly and was kind and gentle with older people. When our choir used to sing at nursing homes, he had such a gentle way of making that program so special, the residents and guests had a good time, but so did we the singers have so much fun being there. He was so busy helping our parish get ready for the move to our new building. He did so many things, I don't think any of us can name them all. He was on church council and headed up the Worship Team getting ready for our first service in our new church.

He has been going to Thiel College for our Lay School event for the past 5 or 6 years and he took so much of the work I had been doing off of my shoulders and onto his. Friday night, at Lay School, he played Holden Evening

Prayer at 9:30pm and I was privileged to lead the service with his accompaniment. (He had taken time one morning last week to help me learn the leadership parts.) After our Evening Prayer, he went with us to some social time, he enjoyed the snacks with his diet coke, he told us good night and he went to bed and went to sleep and our loving Creator gently called him Home. Praise Jesus for such a homecoming for our wonderful Joe.

Oh my goodness, how Joe loved his family. And he was so proud of his granddaughter Lindsey. He loved all his grandchildren. What a joy it was for him when Lindsey and he played a piano/organ duet a while back. I hope Lindsey honors his talents by continuing her musical work. And I am so thankful, he got to go on a little mini-vacation with his family a couple weeks ago. Good memories even though he did tell us several times, it was 92 degrees there! Maybe others will tell me this is a coincidence, but as I was driving in my car home from Thiel and Kathy Coleman and Dottie Bernatowicz were driving Joe's car, a large beautiful eagle with his wings spread wide, glided just above my car and then Joe's car. I know it was Joe's gift to us, telling us all is well with him and we should carry on. And so to honor this giant, I will try to stay the course. I will help finish the move he worked so hard for and so anticipated happening. I will help in the music and worship of his (our) church; I will remember with joy all his funny sayings and his ability to keep a sense of humor in all things and I will remember it's okay to not always agree with the majority. Joe was one of the great teachers in my life and I am sure others as well; and I am grateful that God gave him to us to love and learn from these many years.

Judi Pacileo ~ Written Monday, June 27th 2016



5312 Peach Street
Erie, PA 16509

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



AUGUST 2016



ABIDING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A LOVING FAMILY. . . LIVING THE FAITH,
SHARING THE HOPE. . .
OF CHRIST!



Save the date:

October 16th 3:00 PM—Bishop
Jones will preside over a special
service dedicating our new church
building at 2402 W. Grandview Blvd.

Worship Services with
Holy Communion
Sunday - 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.



Abiding Hope
Lutheran Church
(814)868-8685
www.abidinghopeerie.org