

NOVEMBER 2016

LIFE TOGETHER

A Message from Pastor Allie

Jesus said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

--Matthew 22:37-39

ear Abiding Hope Family,

Let's think of November 5th as "Love your Neighbor Day." This is the day of our Open House at Abiding Hope, where we will enjoy our neighbors, inviting them to come enjoy hotdogs & games, and see our new building. We want to become a welcoming presence in this new neighborhood we live in.



That is a challenging thing to do. The first step is for us to meet our neighbors, exchange names, and begin to build a relationship with them. This is an important step in evangelism in 2016. For the most part, gone is the day when we can hold a revival, or a tent meeting and expect the neighborhood to show up. When people are seeking God, they more often connect with God by the quiet witness and invitation of a friend or neighbor.

We do evangelism because we have experienced the blessing of God's presence in our lives, and a blessing is something we want to share with people we care about. So we might talk about a time when we experienced grace, or a time when God's people came through for us, or how God came alive in our lives. But that's what happens naturally, in simple, quiet ways, when friends, family, co-workers and neighbors spend time together.

Let's begin by spending some time with our neighbors on November 5th. You can help by taking a door hanger or post card and inviting someone you know to the Open House. You can help with food or games or church tours at the Open House, or you can simply be there and smile and meet some neighbors.

You may be feeling like even simple, quiet sharing of your faith is a challenge. If so you are not alone. Many people of faith have never learned how to talk with others about their faith. We all know we don't want to come across like those who knock on our doors and accost us with their beliefs, but we may have never seen someone we think is a good model of how to share faith.

I invite you to a two-week mini course I like to call **Letting the Cat out of the Bag,** aka **Faith Out Loud.** Sundays November 20th & 27th we'll have a 45 minute session from 9:30 – 10:15 between Sunday worship services. We will see several people on a video share something about their faith, and then we will have the chance to do that in pairs with



one another. It's a great practice to talk with people we already know who trust God, so this class will be a great place to gain some experience. Abiding Hope's mission is to be a loving family...

biding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W. Grandview Blvd.

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 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16506 814-868-8685

> Church e-mail: ahadministrator @hotmail.com

> > Website:

www.abidinghopeerie.org

In Peace & Joy! ~ Pastor Allie



Parish Staff and Leadership

Pastor Alison L. Leitzel

Pastor Emeritus Albert U. Gesler, Jr.

Office Assistant Denise Miller

Financial Secretary Pat Wenzel

Coordinators of Music Ministry Edwina Gesler

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**

LIFE TOGETHER

DOWN, IN, AND OUT: LOVING GOD AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

ear about your financial stewardship for three Sundays, November 6, 13 & 20. DOWN, IN, AND OUT: LOVING GOD AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

The practice of stewardship invites us to look in three different directions: DOWN, IN and OUT. We begin by looking at how God has come down to us. We then look in to discover all



that God has entrusted to our care. We end by looking out to understand the needs of our neighbors. When we practice stewardship in this way we are making the sign of the cross. God makes the first vertical line DOWN; we follow by moving IN to the center and then OUT to our neighbors on either side both near and far. We form a cross with our lives and through our faith, we are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

On November 20th, you will be invited to make a financial pledge [giving plan] for 2017. Please pray about this.

Crop Walk Update

eptember 23 - What a beautiful day it was for a walk; better yet what a beautiful cause, to raise money to support the hungry. Thanks to our great supporting congregation, we raised \$325.00 for Crop Walk. Sincere thanks to those who donated and the thankful



families that we outreach to in the Kearsarge

Photo of Penny Gresh and Pastor Allie at Crop Walk with Penny's puppy dog, Jilly.

Thank you Note from the Family of Dianne Reyes

To our Abiding Hope Family,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the outpouring of love and support we received at the time of Dianne's accident. Your generous spirit continued on as we laid her to rest in the arms of Jesus. We cannot thank you enough for all the calls, texts prayers and support.

The funeral service and luncheon following were appreciated by all in attendance. Dianne said "Awesome church, awesome Pastor, awesome God!" Thank you to each and everyone of you.

Vickie, Mary Anne, Cheryl, Rick and Mary Lee



NOVEMBER 2016

Church Council Updates

This article includes highlights from both the September 13 and the October 11 meetings. The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM at church.

- Thank you to everyone who planned and participated in the Leaving and Arriving services of our congregation. The services were beautiful and meaningful.
- Thank you to the many volunteers and the GE volunteers who helped with the move
 and the "re-settling" of our belonings. The old pews have been donated.
- Special thanks extended to the Building ad hoc committee for serving faithfully.
- Stewardship-related sermon themes for the first 3 Sundays in Nov approved. Council members have agreed to think about personally working toward tithing (meaning an intentional percentage of their income). There will be further conversation with a stewardship emphasis within the congregation/council.
- Open House Weekend for our new neighbors (Nov. 5, 1-5 PM and Nov. 6, Sun-

Thrivent Thank You

Thank you to the Thrivent Financial members who applied for and received Action Team funding to help with the November 5th Open House expenses. If you are a Thrivent member, remember that you may be eligible to apply for Action Team funding two day morning worship services.)

- There will be one joint 9:30 AM worship service on both Dec. 25 and Jan.1. The Sat. evening services remain unchanged.
- Christmas Eve worship services will be at 4
 PM and 10 PM
- Epiphany will be celebrated Saturday, January 7 at 5:30 PM (with possible tree burning - check with Fire Department) and a tureen to follow.
- Three bids have been received for snowplowing. Motion to continue with present contractor, Reliable, at \$50/plow, \$70/ salt, \$60/shovel (after double-checking these fees.) Approved.
- Motion to approve Meghan Gilson (with pastor's recommendation) for confirmation. Approved.
- Christian Education Sunday School (10:40 AM) is off and rolling/painting and potting. Discussion concerning Living Nativity plans.

(NOTE: Council minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex)

times per year. Questions? Please call your Thrivent Financial representative.



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



Abiding Hope Contacts Ministers All the members of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church Pastor Alison L. Leitzel-716-499-1120 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

LIFE TOGETHER



November Birthdays

11/2 Dave Cunning 11/2 Gregg Harris 11/2 Elizabeth Runyan 11/5 Kayla Baughman 11/7 Lee Moore 11/7 Cheryl Tufts 11/8 Christopher Dipko 11/10 Tim Hicks 11/11 Jan Tower 11/13 Shawn Stroup 11/14 Marion Fuller 11/14 Isabella Smith 11/15 Charlie Spano 11/15 Jeanne Tropper 11/16 Gerald Hart 11/17 Emily Watson 11/20 Bethany Wall 11/21 Jonali Derry 11/24 Carrie Fiske 11/24 James Holmstrom 11/24 Aimee Pacileo 11/26 Hannah Santabene 11/29 Bob Hicks 11/30 Cole Thompson



November Anniversaries 11/1 Chantel & Matthew Krause 11/6 Jelana & Jared Semrau 11/19 Al & Janet Gesler II

Prayer requests



Please pray for: Loretta Lehman (Carol King's sister), The Ethridge Family, Jelena Semrau, Kenna Andrews, Barry Davis, Carrie Fiske, The Rev Jack Timm, The Kesselring Family.

Going forward this prayer list will concentrate on critically ill members, family and friends of Abiding Hope as well as our families in mourning. As always we need to remember other members of the congregation in need of prayers but this space will acknowledge those in current need. A prayer re-

quest form is on the table (on a clipboard) in the Narthex. The names of the people you request will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless you re-submit on the form.

Project Dignity Monthly Ministry Appeal

ach month Project Dignity collects oneof-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 Heritage Room. November items: Shaving Supplies & First Aid Products



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

with New Hope Presbyterian & St. George's Roman Catholic Sunday November 20th @ 7 pm here at Abiding Hope Come & give thanks with our sisters & brothers in Christ!



Thanksgiving Dinner at MLK

nce again this year, Abiding Hope will be accepting donations of canned cranberry sauce and boxed stuffing for the Thanksgiving Dinner to be served at the Martin the Heritage Room on or before the Thursday, Luther King Center. The dinner traditionally



takes place on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving [11/20]. In the past we have

used a target of 100 units of each and have achieved this goal or came very close to it. Please bring your donations and leave them in November 17th deadline. This has always been both a time to donate and a time to actively help in the prep and serving of a traditional Thanksgiving meal to those who might otherwise go without.

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NOVEMBER 2016

Announcing New Youth Group Forming

Games † Food † Outreach † Crafts † Fellowship † Food † Outings † Devotions † Music † Did I mention food???

Stay tuned for more information on the exciting new adventure for our youth in Grades 3 and 4!

We Need Your Shoes!

onate your shoes and boots - all types - International Medical Assistance of Erie with

all sizes - any condition (pairs only) for those in need in developing countries. The program is conducted by Chosen



Funds2Org. Your used shoes and boots will reduce waste in our landfills and create and sustain micro-enterprise opportunities for low income entrepreneurs in developing nations. Watch Parish Notes for more information.

THE BETHESDA TREE

nce again this year Abiding Hope is assisting in bringing Christmas to young people who may never have experienced what we consider a traditional family celebration. If you care to help, please take one of the twelve slips that will be attached to the ornaments on the tree. Follow the process outlined on a form available at the base of the tree. Understand that the requests are only a wish list and no one is expected to purchase everything on it. Also, for safety reasons, please limit gifts to the type of items listed. You may want to get together with another family or two to share expenses. More details will follow in the very near future.

The young people that are in Bethesda's care have traveled a troubled road. Few of

them are from traditional families that most of us take for granted. We cannot change their past and we leave it to the great folks at Bethesda to help them create a better future. But what we can do is keep both the staff and clients in our prayers and make their Christmas season a whole lot brighter through our generosity.

Yours in Christ,

The Outreach Committee For further information: Ed Whitbred 397-0990 ejwhitbred@verizon.net





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November Scriptures

11/1 Jude 5:21 11/2 Luke 19:11-27 11/3 Acts 22:22-23:11 11/4 Acts 24:10-23 11/5 Luke 20:1-8 11/6 Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31 11/7 2 Peter 1:16-21 11/8 2 John 1-13 11/9 John 5:19-29 11/10 Romans 1:18-25 11/11 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 11/12 Luke 17:20-37 11/13 Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19 11/14 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 11/15 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 11/16 Matthew 23:37-24:14 11/17 Hebrews 9:23-28 11/18 1 Peter 1:3-9 11/19 Luke 18:15-17 11/20 Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43 11/21 Revelation 21:5-27 11/22 Revelations 22:8-21 11/23 Luke 1:1-4 11/24 James 4:1-10 11/25 Hebrews 11:1-7 11/26 Matthew 24:1-22 11/27 Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 11/28 Romans 6:1-11 11/29 Hebrews 11:32-40 11/30 Matthew 24:23-35

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LIFE TOGETHER

Announcing New Arrival

oshua and Mariah Loutzenhiser are happy to announce an addition to their family, Raelyn LeeAnn Loutzenhiser. She came into the world at 8 pounds 7 ounces, healthy and welcomed by great grandparents, LeRoy and Charlotte, grandparents Jonathan and Analee and her other mother, 4 year old sister Macy.



Reverse Advent Calendar Project

he church council would like to challenge used by folks in need. the congregation to a Reverse Advent Calendar event. Put a box in visible place in your home. Each day from December 1st to the 25th, place an item into the box that could be

Items could be new or used. At the end of December, take the box to an organization that could use the items.

All Saints Observances

Il Saint's Sunday is November 6th. During the candlelight service on Wednesday Nov. 2nd at 7:00 PM and on Sunday November 6th we will remember those who have gone before us by speaking the names of loved ones who have passed.



Italian Feast Thank You Dinner on Nov. 12th

ast chance to sign up for the November all who worked so hard to make this beautiful worship and fellowship space. Sign-up sheet on table at back of church or call the office. Last da, just come eat and visit and enjoy the evenday to sign up will be Sunday, November 6th.

Buffet will include Italian Wedding Soup; Salad; 12th Italian Feast cooked in gratitude for Meat Stuffed Manicotti; Cheese Stuffed Shells; Lasagna; Rigatoni; Meatballs; Sweet Italian Sausage; and desserts. All homemade. No agening. Dinner starts at 6 P.M.

Thank you to the Tea Team Bakers!

7 hat a wonderful variety of small (just $\,$ other lovely plates. Thank you so much! We like we asked) cookies and even a couple loaves of sweet breads that we were able to make beautiful platters to tempt our guests. And they enjoyed being tempted and took the challenge doing the best they could to empty the plates.....only to be replaced by

had some leftovers that we froze and are offering to the committee planning the November 5th Neighborhood Open House. As always our church comes through when a request for anything is made. Again, THANK YOU!! judí pacíleo, cheryl tufts § jacque holmberg



First Sunday Fellowship Hour S Sunday, November 6th at 9:30 AM following the 8:15 AM service

Hosted by the Ladies of WELCA Come and share good eats and fellowship.

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Memories of our Church Dedication on October 16th

Dedication of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church at 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. October 16th & 3:00 PM



Musical Notes

Adult Choir continues meeting on Wednesday's at 7:40 PM under the direction of Edwina Gesler. All are welcome to join this fun group. Note: No practice on Nov. 23rd.



Join the ladies of AHLC on **Tuesday, Nov. 15th** at the church at 6:30 PM for Bible Study and refreshments and learn how to help the Women's Veteran Programs by making fleece blankets.

Special thanks to all who attended and volunteered to help make our dedication service and reception a won-

10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's

emory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or <u>another de-</u> <u>mentia</u>. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. Every individual may experience one or more of these signs in a different degree. If you notice any of them, please see a doctor.

1. MEMORY LOSS THAT DISRUPTS DAILY LIFE

One of the most common signs of Alzheimer's is memory loss, especially forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events; asking for the same information over and over; increasingly needing to rely on memory aids (e.g., reminder notes or electronic devices) or family members for things they used to handle on their own.

What's a typical age-related change?

Sometimes forgetting names or appointments, but remembering them later.

2. CHALLENGES IN PLANNING OR SOLVING PROBLEMS

Some people may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers. They may have trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills. They may have difficulty concentrating and take much longer to do things than they did before.

What's a typical age-related change?

Making occasional errors when balancing a checkbook.

3. DIFFICULTY COMPLETING FAMILIAR TASKS AT HOME, AT WORK OR AT LEISURE

People with Alzheimer's often find it hard to complete daily tasks. Sometimes, people may have trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget at work or remembering the rules of a favorite game.

What's a typical age-related change?

Occasionally needing help to use the settings on a microwave or to record a television show.

4. CONFUSION WITH TIME OR PLACE

People with Alzheimer's can lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time. They may have trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately. Sometimes they may forget where they are or how they got there.

What's a typical age-related change?

Getting confused about the day of the week but figuring it out later.

5. TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING VISUAL IMAGES AND SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS

For some people, having vision problems is a sign of Alzheimer's. They may have difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast, which may cause problems with driving.

6. NEW PROBLEMS WITH WORDS IN SPEAKING OR WRITING

People with Alzheimer's may have trouble following or joining a conversation. They may stop in the middle of a conversation and have no idea how to continue or they may repeat themselves. They may struggle with vocabulary, have problems finding the right word or call things by the wrong name (e.g., calling a "watch" a "hand-clock").



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 814-474-4838

A Message from Parish Nurse Jeanne Trooper, RN

What's a typical age-related change?

Sometimes having trouble finding the right word.

7. MISPLACING THINGS AND LOSING THE ABILITY TO RETRACE STEPS

A person with Alzheimer's disease may put things in unusual places. They may lose things and be unable to go back over their steps to find them again. Sometimes, they may accuse others of stealing. This may occur more frequently over time.

What's a typical age-related change?

Misplacing things from time to time and retracing steps to find them.

8. DECREASED OR POOR JUDGMENT

People with Alzheimer's may experience changes in judgment or decision-making. For example, they may use poor judgment when dealing with money, giving large amounts to telemarketers. They may pay less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean.

What's a typical age-related change?

Making a bad decision once in a while.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM WORK OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A person with Alzheimer's may start to remove themselves from hobbies, social activities, work projects or sports. They may have trouble keeping up with a favorite sports team or remembering how to complete a favorite hobby. They may also avoid being social because of the changes they have experienced.

What's a typical age-related change?

Sometimes feeling weary of work, family and social obligations.

10. CHANGES IN MOOD AND PERSONALITY

The mood and personalities of people with Alzheimer's can change. They can become confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious. They may be easily upset at home, at work, with friends or in places where they are out of their comfort zone.

What's a typical age-related change?

Developing very specific ways of doing things and becoming irritable when a routine is disrupted.

If you notice any of the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's in yourself or someone you know, don't ignore them. Schedule an appointment with your doctor.

With early detection, you can: Get the maximum benefit from available treatments – You can explore treatments that may provide some relief of symptoms and help you maintain a level of independence longer. You may also increase your chances of participating in clinical drug trials that help advance research.

You are not alone – Help and support is available.

Care and support services are available, making it easier for you and your family to live the best life possible with Alzheimer's or dementia.

24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900

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

New Jerusalem 16th Annual Crib to College Scholarship Ball

Concourse at Union Station 121 W. 12th St.

Friday, Nov. 18th Reception 7 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Dance 9:00 PM Tickets \$25

For more information see flyer on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall

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LIFE TOGETHER

Christmas Poinsettias 2016



embers and friends of Abiding Hope are invited to place poinsettias on the altar for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Please complete an information form in November's Sunday bulletins so your request(s) may be included in the Christmas bulletins. Complete the form and place it in an envelope along with your payment, in the offering plate by Sunday, November 27th or return to the office before 12 noon on the 28th. A multi-bloom 6 ½" red poinsettia is \$8.25 or instead of a plant donate to the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry.

Volunteer to Help Host Our Neighborhood Open House

Working together we can host a marvelous Open House on November 5th!

Here's some ways you can volunteer: Advance preparation

- Purchasing food and paper products Baking cookies
- Going two by two to distribute fliers door to door on October 23 after worship, or another day around that time

On November 5th

Running games

Giving tours of the church to neighbors Cooking Hotdogs

Serving food

- Clean up
- Just be there & be friendly

See sign up sheets in Narthex or call the church office. 868-8685

Abiding Hope



Come Meet & Greet our New Neighbors

Saturday November 5th 1-5 pm Hotdogs! Games! Prizes!

What is C H R C H without U? Plan to come and be the church on November 5th.



2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16506

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NOVEMBER 2016



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

Let's have an adult class between worship services



Letting the Cat out of the Bag aka Faith Out Loud, talking about what matters most

a two-week video course offering hope for tongue-tied Christians giving words to our own faith stories. 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 Pastor Alison Leitzel 716-499-1120 www.abidinghopeerie.org

Sundays November 20th & 27th & 9:30-10-15 am