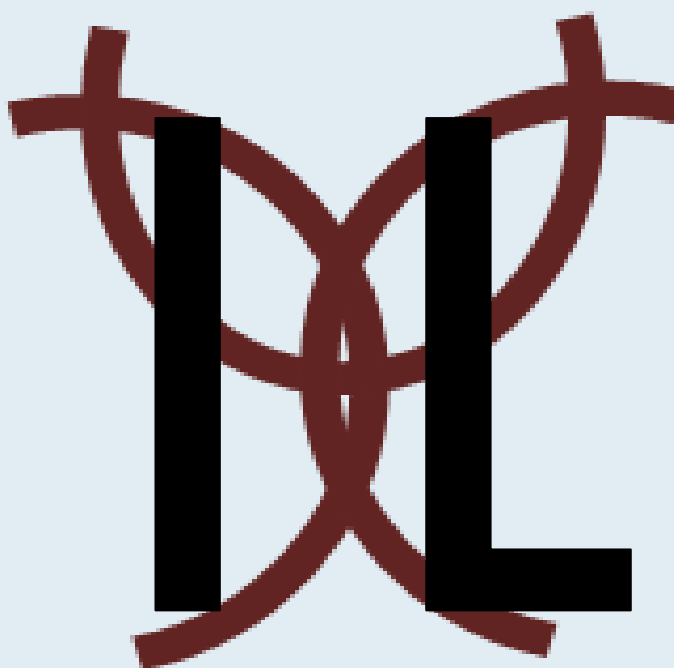


# ***IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023**



**1002 Powell Avenue  
Erie PA 16505**

**814-833-4062**

# CELEBRATING NEW LIFE, NEW BEGINNINGS!!



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## Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

One of the most powerful verses in the Bible is found in the book of Job when God asks, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand." (Job 38:4)

I cannot imagine being Job. God allowed the devil to walk the earth and find Job, a faithful servant, and "torture" him hoping to turn him against God. God had all confidence that Job would stay faithful. Job lost his children, his house, his livestock and all his crops. He finally lost his health as well. Job's friends and wife had determined Job to be guilty of some sin against God, told him to repent and have his earthly wealth restored.

Job, knowing he had done nothing wrong, refused to confess to sins he had not committed, and stood his ground. Job cried out extolling all his virtues and asking why he was suffering for sins he had not committed; where was God so that he could speak with God face to face and challenge him for the misery God was putting him through when he deserved no such thing? After all those who were there to support him had abandoned him, a younger man spoke of the glory and majesty of God.

God then responded letting Job know that God is all powerful; God created earth and all living beings on the earth and in the seas. Job became humbled at God's power, realizing that he spoke of things he did not understand. He repented for his arrogance. After rebuking Job's friends God restored everything to Job in twofold.

Some people have been turned away from God because of the story of Job. Why would God allow such suffering to happen to a person who was righteous and upright in God's sight? Why wouldn't God defend Job before allowing Satan to torture him? And why is God in conversation with Satan to begin with? We struggle with this every day. Why does God allow suffering in this world?

There have been many reasons given... One of them is we wouldn't know how blessed we are if we don't have something to compare it with. One that my seminary professor wrote a book about is that God doesn't have the power to control evil in this world. This is another way of stating what Rabbi Kushner said in his book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People", that's just it... bad things happen. Our human actions don't earn us earthly pleasure, nor do they bring about calamity (although bad choices can, and most often will do so). God doesn't stop bad things from happening.

The good news is that God is there, walking with you through the turmoil. God doesn't desert you. God will not abandon you. Then, in many cases, God will use the bad to bring about good. No matter what the circumstances, God is still in control and in the long run God's will will be done.

If you'd like to talk about this or anything on your mind please give me a call. I'm at the church on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays from 9:30 am – 2 pm. The church number is 814-833-4062 and my cell number is 724-557-2386. Feel free to call me anytime, please leave a message if I do not answer.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Karen

You can find Pastor Karen's latest sermons in print on our webpage here

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/worship-.html>  
and the video is posted to our  
[Facebook page](#)



# The Social Ministry Committee: Thank You and What's Next

As noted in last month's issue, Immanuel Lutheran's Social Ministry Committee was able to raise an astounding amount of school supplies for children in our community. Over 200 items were donated to various groups, including Harding Elementary School. They sent a special "thank you," to all those who were generous enough to donate, helping to enrich the education of these young students in the new school year.

## THANK YOU, FRIEND OF HARDING!

Thank you for your support of our recent "School Supplies for Success" Drive. Your donations help us ensure that students have the supplies needed to succeed here at school for the start of the school year and throughout the coming months.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and appreciate you embracing our school with your generosity.

Thanks again, from all of us at Harding Elementary, a community school.



Shanna Potter, Community School Director  
spotter@eriesd.org  
814-440-9734



For our next fundraiser, the Social Ministry Committee is working with Inter Church Ministries of Erie County (ICM) on Coats for Kids 2023, collecting coats for school aged children and teens. In addition to the coats- hats, gloves and scarves will also be collected. ICM has set a goal of collecting 3,000 items to help keep every child warm this winter.

**We will be collecting items through October 15.** Coats and other items may be new or lightly used. Items can be placed in the box found at the Donation Station.

If you would like to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of new coats, please make a notation of "Coats for Kids" on the check.

If you are looking for other ways to get involved, ICM is also looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Marketing and publicity
- Maintain contribution centers
- Transport the lightly used coats to Chido Cleaners
- Transport coats to the distribution center

**If you are willing to volunteer, contact the church office.  
Please consider helping with this church community effort.**





## Trail of Treats

From now until Halloween, we will be collecting donations of candy to pass out for our annual Trail of Treats. Items can be placed at the Donation Station.

We are also looking for volunteers to hand out candy on Halloween, October 31st from 6:00—8:00 pm. Look for a Sign Up sheet in the hallway.



Bring your little ghouls or goblins to the church during trick or treating to receive a sweet treat.



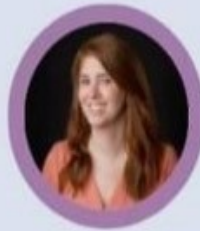
# Trunk or Treat

**This year, Immanuel Lutheran will play host to a Trunk or Treat, presented in part by Brittany Redditt. This special event will take place in Immanuel's parking lot on Friday, October 27th from 6:00—8:00pm.**

**All are welcome to attend**

# TRUNK OR TREAT

Presented by: Kelsea Thomas, Adell Lane and Brittany Redditt



**EVENT DATE & TIME: OCTOBER 27TH, 2023, 6-8PM**

**LOCATION: IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1002 POWELL AVENUE, ERIE, PA 16505**

Free Event (for both Trunk or Treaters and those decorating trunks)  
Prize Awarded for Best Decorated Car!

*\*We cannot guarantee candy free of allergens.*



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REALTORS®**

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# Food Drives

## Holy Trinity Church Thursday Night Dinner

Each year, twelve Lutheran churches take turns hosting the Thursday night dinner at Holy Trinity Church, located at 643 West 17th street. October is Immanuel Lutheran's month to serve.

On Thursday, October 26, we will prepare a menu of sloppy joes, pasta salad, applesauce, cupcakes and capri suns. We will also put out Halloween candy, for an extra treat.

We need volunteers to help cook and serve, as well as donations of food. Volunteers will need to be at Holy Trinity at 4 pm. Dinner is served at 5pm. Look for a Sign Up sheet to donate and volunteer on the bulletin board in the main hallway. The Social Ministry Committee thanks you for your support.



## West Millcreek Food Pantry Thanksgiving Food Drive

Each year, the West Millcreek Food Pantry puts together Thanksgiving meal kits, complete with a turkey, for 25-30 local, in-need families. The Food Pantry asks local churches and businesses to aid in their donation, by supplying one side dish to accompany the turkey.

This year, Immanuel will support the West Millcreek Food Pantry's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive by providing stuffing. We hope to collect at least 30 boxes/bags of stuffing by November 13.

You will find a collection box near the Donation Station.

# Quilt Blessing

On October 1st, Immanuel Lutheran held a Quilt Blessing. The Quilting Group has worked all year, making 128 beautiful, unique quilts. So far this year, 55 quilts have been donated to various organizations and groups, including: 46 to those suffering from the war in Ukraine, four to the Liberty House for homeless Veteran men, one to the Bethany Outreach Center for their annual golf fundraiser, and one to a local homeless man.

After the blessing, the remaining quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief. LWR ships the quilts all over the world, including places like South America and Africa. Immanuel's quilters are giving a special blessed momentum to families all over the world.





## Permanent Entertainment Sale

Are you looking for an interesting new read? Wanting to add to your children's or grandchildren's library? Maybe, you'd like to learn a new hobby; drawing or writing, perhaps? Do crossword puzzles, word games or DVDs sound more intriguing to you? Whatever style of entertainment you prefer, chances are, Immanuel has something for you at our *\*NEW\** Permanent Entertainment Sale.

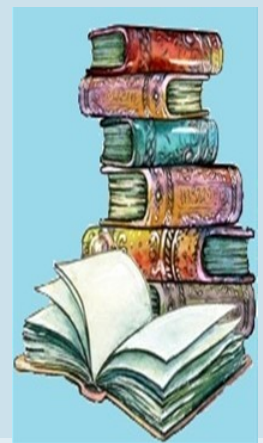


Thanks in large part to Bill & Debbie Redditt, and the team who helped clean 1028 Powell, many, many, *many* different forms of media were able to be rescued and cleaned up for resale. Rather than wait for Immanuel's annual Book and Bake Sale during Election Day, Cindy Eckman had the brilliant idea to assemble a continuous sale. She has taken it upon herself to layout and arrange items in an orderly fashion.

If you are interested in perusing the vast selection, you can find the sale located in the room directly across the hall from the Office. The Permanent Entertainment Sale will be open during Office Hours and Worship on Sundays.

Most books and DVDs are just \$1. There is a selection of large, hardback books in great condition selling for \$5. Many of these book specialize in the art and animation of Disney films. If you, or someone special, has a favorite Disney movie, chances are there's a book to dive even deeper into the tale.

Monies can be placed in the Shiny Red Box on the windowsill.





# Lutheran Disaster Response: Maui Collection

As many are aware, beginning on August 8th, Maui, one of Hawaii's most beautiful and densely populated islands, was ravaged by wildfires. There was very little warning time, leading to panic and intense confusion among residents of this usual paradise. Locals began fleeing to escape the flames, attempting to save children, pets and neighbors along the way.

**Before**



Hundreds lost their lives. Thousands upon thousands are completely devastated, left with nothing more than their current clothing. The town of Lahaina alone, where fires began, reported early estimates of over 2,700 homes destroyed.

Lutheran Disaster Response, an organization grounded in Lutheran theology, sharing God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world, has organized a collection fund for Maui.

**After**



Lutheran  
Disaster Response

Due to the island location and everchanging hurricane weather, getting resources to and from Maui is nearly impossible at times.

The U.S. Coast Guard, Hawaii's National Guard and active-duty forces on the island have all been a great resource in aiding the locals. Right now, the best way you can help is by making a financial donation. It provides immediate funds to supply the most crucial resources.

The Social Ministry Committee at Immanuel encourages anyone that would like to assist those suffering from wildfires in Hawaii, or other places in the US, to donate as you are able to Lutheran Disaster Response.

## **There are many ways you can donate:**

Drop off at Immanuel, during Worship or office hours, in an envelope marked LDR Wildfires.

Mail checks or money orders directly to: **Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**P.O. Box 1809**  
**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Donate over the phone by calling: **800-638-3522** Monday through Friday 9:00 am—6:00 pm

Go online to: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and click **"GIVE NOW"** on the Wildfire Relief banner.



# Worship & Music



## ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN POSTING OUR ALTAR FLOWER AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP SHEETS IF YOU WOULD CARE TO SPONSOR EITHER OR BOTH IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE -- IT WILL BE NOTED IN OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATHY'S FLOWER SHOPPE, WHO HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE FLOWERS FOR US FOR MANY YEARS HAS HAD TO INCREASE PRICES SO FLOWERS WILL BE \$36/WK – SANCTUARY CANDLE REMAINS AT \$5/WK. WHEN PAYMENT IS MADE, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS NEW AMOUNT IN YOUR PAYMENT STARTING THIS MONTH! YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BRING IN YOUR OWN PLANTS/ FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDEN, ETC.

Please join us for a special Celebration of Love and Life, following Worship, on October 22nd.



Bill Kostur celebrates his birthday on October 21st, followed by Pastor Karen's birthday on October 23rd. On October 22nd, the two celebrate their wedding anniversary. Please join us after service on the 22nd in the lounge, for cake and coffee, to wish the happy couple all the best.

PRAYER

Please join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. either indoors or in our drive-in services.



Church Choir is every Thursday at 7:15 pm!  
New Members are encouraged and welcomed.  
If you're interested, contact Bryan Timm

[timmbryan@hotmail.com](mailto:timmbryan@hotmail.com)

## Christian Education

### Join Pastor Karen for Bible Study



Starting **Tuesday, October 10th**, from **6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**, Pastor Karen will host a bible study on the book,

“He Leads Me Along Life’s Journey,”  
By Marie Cozad. Pastor will supply the book. More information can be found by the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hall.



Throughout the year, Lutherlyn hosts a wide variety of both day and overnight programs. There are retreats and events for kids, youth, adults, and families.

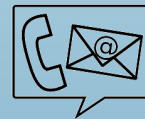
For October:

14 & 15- Woodland Quilters Quilt Show  
14 - Intro to Blacksmithing Class  
22 - Family Halloween Fun:  
25 - NWPA & SWPA Rostered Leaders  
Day of Rest & Renewal

**For mor information and to register visit:**

**<https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/>**

**Immanuel Lutheran is looking for people interested in learning to Usher Or Assist as Worship Leaders during Sunday Service.**



**To learn more about becoming an Assistant Worship Leader, please contact Pastor Karen**

**Email: [pastorkaren.immanuel@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkaren.immanuel@gmail.com)  
Phone: (724) 557-2386**

**If you are interested in becoming an Usher, please contact Bob Dorler**

**Email: [Dorlerr@yahoo.com](mailto:Dorlerr@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (814) 833-2719**

**get involved &  
*be the church***





*Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.*

*The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.*

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Janice Kreger  
Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece  
Wally and Barb Coughlin  
Pastor Owen Rhodes and family  
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long  
Penney Maloney  
Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn  
The Botwright family  
Ian Byrne  
Connie Cooper  
Mary Hauser's sister - Alice Tillotson  
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman  
Kyle Husted  
Carol and Gordon Ketchel  
Patrick Lewis–friend of Sandy Kocur,  
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr  
Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John  
Bishop Michael Lozano  
Diane McGranor  
Carole Rickrode  
Bob and Sharon Roemer  
All of our members & friends who are grieving;  
Who are in nursing homes;  
All who are ill at home

**We pray for those in the military:**

Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew)  
Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson – serving stateside now per an update from Ann Neimann).

***If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.***

***If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.***

**Member Update:** Sharon Roemer is now a resident of Fairview Manor.

**Mailing address:** 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415

Your prayers & cards are appreciated.

## Herbs in the Fall

As Autumn approaches, we often think that our herb gardens are finished for the season. They still have lots of life in them! Consider these ideas:

- Identify those herbs that can “winter over”. Cut them back to 4-6”, place mulch (dried leaves, etc.) over them, and let them sleep over the winter. Herbs that are perfect for this include sage, oregano, mint, chives, thyme, fennel, lavender, and tarragon. Be sure to remove the mulch as new growth appears in the spring.
- Some herbs, like parsley, rosemary and basil, are perfect for moving indoors. Check for insects. Re-potting in fresh soil is always a good idea.
- Annual herbs such as dill and coriander survive for a single season. Pull the dead herbs and clear the plant debris, so that pests don’t find a hiding place.
- Left on the stem, hardier herbs like rosemary, dill, thyme or sage can be spread in a single layer on a plate and placed in freezer. Transfer to bags for storage.
- Freezing parsley and basil is easy to do. Place in ice cube trays, add water or olive oil, freeze and then place in plastic bags.
- Drying herbs is also a good idea (check the website below for instructions).

As always, our Penn State Master Gardeners’ websites are full of helpful info. See: <https://extension.psu.edu/growing-harvesting-and-preserving-herbs>

**The Green Team’s purpose is to “raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation”. Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.**

[nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)



Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
10/1/23 9:30 AM 11:00AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
10/8/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
10/15/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Anita Byrne
10/22/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Debbie Madurski
10/29/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Stan Holsopple	Barb Coughlin



**Altar Guild:** Judy Stewart & Donna Dorler  
**Counters:** Stan Holsopple & Denise Arnold  
**Ushers:** Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment –  
please find an alternate & notify the church office.

Lectors:

Remember to  
adjust  
microphone  
towards you &  
speak into it  
for all to hear.

**We continue to offer our services indoor or via drive-in service so if you can't be with us in person in the church, join us in our parking lots or in the immediate vicinity of the church and tune to 93.7 on your FM dial each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. You can also listen via speaker in our Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.**



# Celebrations of October Life and Love

## Birthdays

10/2 David Bednar  
10/2 Steven Minski  
10/2 Heather Rohan  
10/8 Kenneth Kreger  
10/11 Betsy Harmle  
10/11 Penny Maloney  
10/13 Jacob Hunter  
10/19 Cathy Bednar  
10/21 Bill Kostur  
10/21 Robert McCracken  
10/21 Mitchell Molnar  
10/21 Kristy Sturgeon-Marucci  
10/22 Brody Bonsell  
10/23 Karen Kostur  
10/23 Ronald Madurski  
10/23 Sandy Moore  
10/30 Paula Holsopple Shaw



## Wedding Anniversaries

10/2 Vic & Kim Paternosh  
10/4 Lynn & Daniel Jackson  
10/5 Michael & Cindy Rohan  
10/11 Kelly & Jason Hunter  
10/14 Steven & Jennifer Minski  
10/17 Larry & Lori Swanson Nemenz  
10/22 Karen & Bill Kostur  
10/27 William & Sandy Moore



**Capital Campaign - Boiler:**  
Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$25,263.48 toward our goal of \$58,803.



**Pennies for Poverty** collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



### LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL

**IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING  
IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.



# October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Coffee hour Quarter Sunday	2 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	3 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	4 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	5 Church Choir 7:15 pm	6 AA 7:30 pm	7
8 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	9 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	10 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pastor Karen Bible Study 6:00pm	11 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	12 Church Choir 7:15 pm	13 AA 7:30 pm	14
15 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	16 Quilters 9:30 am Flute Choir 7pm	17 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pastor Karen Bible Study 6:00pm	18 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	19 Church Choir 7:15 pm	20 AA 7:30 pm	21
22 9:30 am Worship Pastor Karen & Bill's wedding anniversary party following service Sunday School	23 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	24 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pastor Karen Bible Study 6:00pm	25 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	26 Church Choir 7:15 pm Holy Trinity Church Thursday Night Dinner	27 Trunk or Treat 6—8 pm AA 7:30 pm	28
29 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	30 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	31 Halloween Trail of Treats 6-8 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm				



**Immanuel**  
Church Office  
814-833-4062  
Hours:  
Monday and Wednesday  
8:00am—1:00 pm.  
[immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)

### Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062  
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386  
Pastor's Office Hours – Tues &  
Thurs.9:30am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin  
Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm  
Admin. Ofc.: Delani Kinzig

### Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger  
Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor  
Kostur

### Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres:Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855  
VP:Bob Dorler 814-833-2719  
Sec.:D. Madurski 814-774-3590  
Fin. Sec.:C.Geddes 814-734-1286  
Treasurer: Bill Redditt

### Additional Council Members

Cindy Eckman, George Pfeiffer,  
Sally Leubin, Cindy Geddes, Mary  
Hauser



## Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees  
and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!  
Council usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*



Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)  
Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the  
church calendar, newsletter or annual report?  
Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE  
NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES  
NEWS**

### Fellowship, Outreach & Growth

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin & Cindy Eckman  
**COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**  
**SOUP COOK BOOKET AVAILABLE**

### Finance

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer  
**ANNUAL AUDIT**

### Property

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: vacant  
**FACILITY MAINTENANCE –OUTSIDE OUTLETS IN-  
OPERABLE, RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE –  
BATHROOM UPDATE POWELL AVE.**  
**ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### Stewardship

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

### Social Ministry Committee

Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

### Worship & Music

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: Sue Pfeiffer

**W&M COMMITTEE MTG: To Be Announced**  
**DRIVE-IN AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 A.M.**