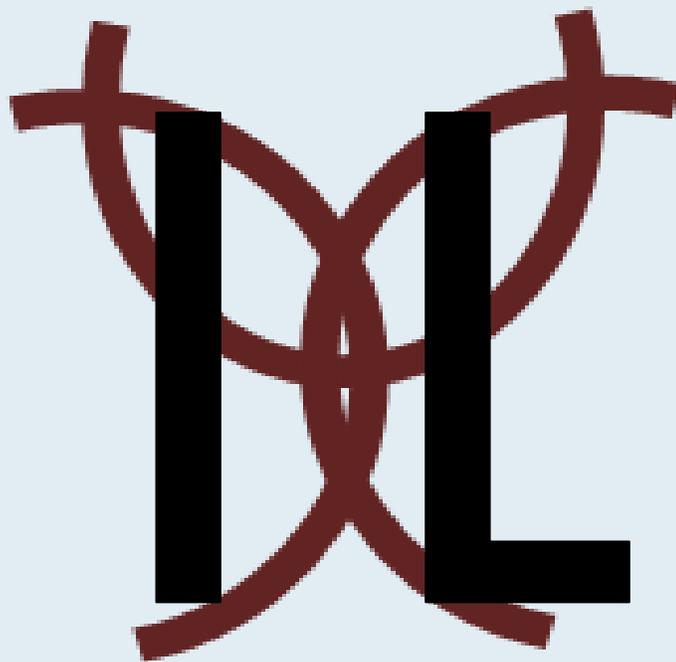


# **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**DECEMBER 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

Luke 1:38 "Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."

In looking at the hymnal I discovered an Advent song I had never seen before, "Unexpected and Mysterious" (#258 ELW).

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.

Ever loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.

If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known, God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting of eternity and time, Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine. Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy, and she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy. We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our

longing to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.

What a wonderful message as we prepare ourselves for the Savior's coming into our hearts again this Advent season. In this season of waiting and preparation we reflect upon how Jesus meets us today and where we see him at work in our world. "We watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth." All brought about because a young woman known as Mary said yes. I wonder how long this life-changing encounter seemed to take for Mary. Whatever time lapsed it took just a moment in the grand scheme of eternity. But how that moment changed history!

For centuries humankind had not heard from God and were beginning to be without hope that God cared for them. Mary, a village girl, not a royal princess, helped to change that as she consented to God's request to bring hope back into the world. After visiting Elizabeth, her cousin in the hill country, Mary had affirmation that she was carrying a child who would change the world, one who would be a Savior for all humanity.

We ponder the mystery of the incarnation, the wonder of how our almighty and holy God took on flesh and came to earth. How God loved us so much that he created a son who lived among us, a son who knew all the pain of earthly life yet loves us still. What joy the knowledge that God did not desert humanity brings to our hearts. So as you prepare your heart again this Advent season to welcome the Son of God into our lives and into our world may you find the peace and joy that comes only from God.

As always I invite you to give me a call if you'd like to discuss this article or anything that may be on your mind. I'm at the church on Tuesday afternoons from 1 – 3p.m., Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. feel free to call the office 814-833-4062 to speak with me, or anytime you can leave a message, I will return your call. My cell phone number is 724-557-2386, feel free to call me any time. If I don't answer please leave a message. Also, I hope to see you on Christmas Eve, either the 5 or 10 p.m. service. We will have a morning worship for the 4th Sunday in Advent on Dec. 24 as well.

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

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

# Social Ministry Updates

## ***COATS FOR KIDS***

Immanuel donated 36 coats, 19 hats, 15 pairs of gloves and mittens, and 3 scarves to Inter Church Ministries for their coat drive.



## ***HOLY TRINITY DINNER***

Immanuel members served 49 people at the Holy Trinity sloppy joe dinner. Many thanks to everyone that helped with these projects.

## ***Community Shelter Bus Pass collection***



The social ministry committee is doing something new to help those using the facilities at the Community Shelter Services. We will be collecting money to purchase weekly bus passes to aid those needing transportation to job interviews or the job itself. A weekly bus pass costs \$7.50. If you would like to support this ministry, please make a notation of "social ministry bus pass" on your check or donation envelope.

**We will collect donations through Dec. 24.**

# 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 \$40/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.

## DECK THE HALLS!

*"Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People Look East and sing today, Love the guest is on the way!"*



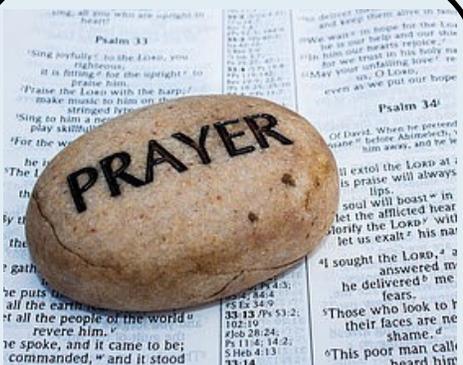
WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE TO DECORATE THE SANTUARY ON **DECEMBER 3RD**, FOLLOWING THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

## COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

Stop by the lounge after church service.  
The Eckman's will be hosting.



COFFEE &  
Conversation

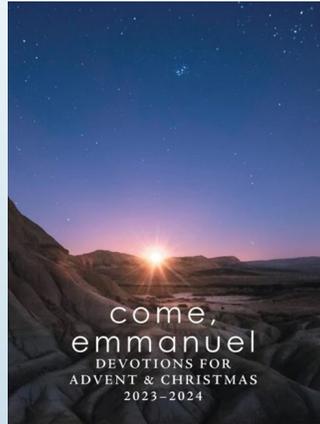


Please join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. either indoors or in our drive-in services.

# Christian Education

## Advent Study with Pastor Karen

Beginning Thursday, November 29, 2023, you're invited to join Pastor Karen from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for an Advent Study. The book "Come Emmanuel," will be discussed, which offers daily devotions based on the O Antiphons, beginning Sunday December 3, 2023, and ending January 1, 2024.



During the study, participants will dive deeper into:

- Nov. 30: **O Wisdom**  
(for daily devotions Dec. 3-7)
- Dec 7: **O Adonai/Lord**  
(for daily devotions Dec. 8-12)
- Dec. 14: **O Root/Branch of Jesse**  
(for daily devotions Dec. 13-17)  
\*Also: **O Key of David** (for daily devotions Dec.18-22)
- Dec. 21: **O Emmanuel**  
(for daily devotions Dec. 23-27)  
\* On your own: **O Morning Star/Dayspring**  
(for daily devotions Dec. 28- Jan. 1)

Books will be provided by Pastor Karen at the first study. Look for a sign-up sheet in the main hallway mid-November.



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 December 2023:

1-3 Advent Retreat: Enjoy the start of the holiday season decorating cookies, singing carols and playing games with your family amidst the wonder of Lutherlyn. Registration required.

2 Plunge: A great fundraising event! Stay warm by the fire while enjoying hot chocolate and s'mores-just our "plungers" get wet!

For mor information and to register visit:  
<https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/>

## Immanuel Lutheran is in need of new Church Council members!



### To learn more about joining the Church Council, please contact

### Debbie Redditt



Email: [debbieredditt@gmail.com](mailto:debbieredditt@gmail.com)

Phone: (814) 449-1855





*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:**

Eric Adkins and family  
Janice Kreger  
Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece  
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long  
Penney Maloney  
Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn  
The Botwright family  
Ian Byrne  
Connie Cooper  
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).

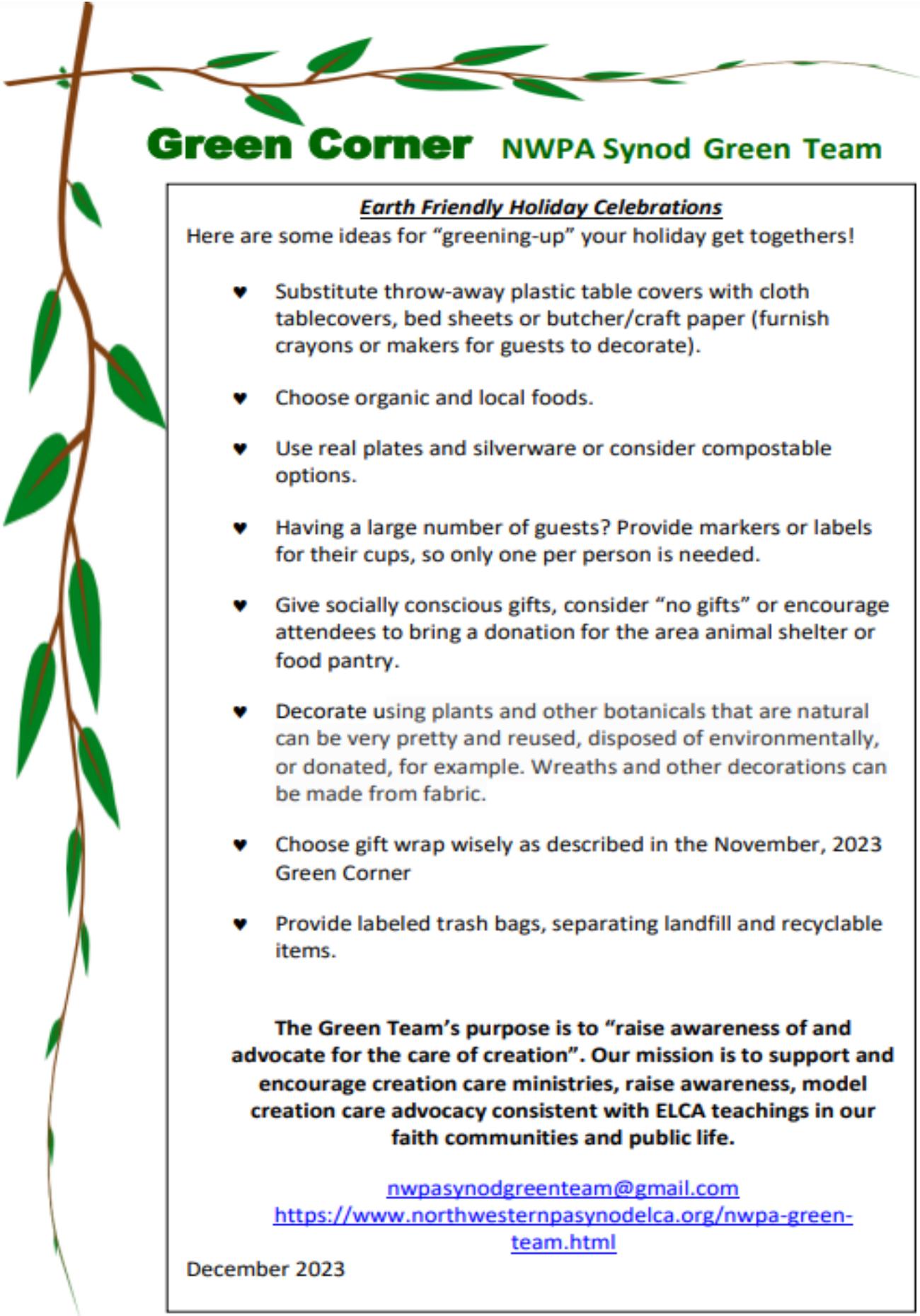
***If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.***

***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.



## **Green Corner** NWPA Synod Green Team

### *Earth Friendly Holiday Celebrations*

Here are some ideas for “greening-up” your holiday get togethers!

- ♥ Substitute throw-away plastic table covers with cloth tablecovers, bed sheets or butcher/craft paper (furnish crayons or makers for guests to decorate).
- ♥ Choose organic and local foods.
- ♥ Use real plates and silverware or consider compostable options.
- ♥ Having a large number of guests? Provide markers or labels for their cups, so only one per person is needed.
- ♥ Give socially conscious gifts, consider “no gifts” or encourage attendees to bring a donation for the area animal shelter or food pantry.
- ♥ Decorate using plants and other botanicals that are natural can be very pretty and reused, disposed of environmentally, or donated, for example. Wreaths and other decorations can be made from fabric.
- ♥ Choose gift wrap wisely as described in the November, 2023 Green Corner
- ♥ Provide labeled trash bags, separating landfill and recyclable items.

**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)

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

December 2023

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
12/3/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Debbie Madurski
12/10/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Cindy Eckman
12/17/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Bob Dorler
12/24/23 Christmas Eve 9:30AM  5:30 PM  10:00PM	Kostur	Bob Dorler  Bob Dorler  Anita Byrne	Bob Dorler  Bob Dorler  Anita Byrne
12/31/2023 New Years Eve 9:30 am			



**Lectors:**

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

**Altar Guild:** Debbie Madurski

**Counters:** Kim Lee and Cindy Geddes

**Ushers:** Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment –

**You can also listen via speaker in our  
Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.**



# Celebrations of December Life and Love

## Birthdays

12/2 Nathan Paternosh  
12/3 Connie Cooper  
12/4 John Sierota  
12/5 Kailee Sturgeon  
12/7 Gretchen Andrews  
12/9 Jodie Feiler  
12/12 Jeremy Cool  
12/12 Natalie Jackson  
12/15 Rebecca Griffin Bureau  
12/15 Cassandra Kuczynski-Casler  
12/19 Thomas Kocur  
12/20 Courtney Casler  
12/21 Leslie Rickrode  
12/22 Timothy Botwright  
12/24 Sara Benson  
12/25 Laura Ditzler  
12/29 Kristen Andrews  
12/29 Mary Kreger  
12/31 Beth Siefert  
12/31 Timothy Summers



## Wedding Anniversaries

12/13 Richard & Mary Hetrick

### 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.

# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AA 7:00 pm	2
3 9:30 am Worship Quarter Sunday Congregational meeting Decorate Church Coffee Hour Sunday School	4 Quilters 9:30 am  Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	5 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	6 Tops 9:00 am  AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	7 Church Choir 7:15 pm  Pastor Karen Advent Study 6- 7 p.m.	8 AA 7:00 pm	9
10 9:30 am Worship  Council meeting 10:30 am  Sunday School	11 Quilters 9:30 am  Flagship City Chorus 7 pm  Flute Choir 7pm	12 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	13 Tops 9:00 am  AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	14 Church Choir 7:15 pm  Pastor Karen Advent Study 6- 7 p.m.	15 AA 7:00 pm	16
17 9:30 am Worship  Sunday School	18 Quilters 9:30 am  Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	19 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	20 Tops 9:00 am  AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	21 Church Choir 7:15 pm  Pastor Karen Advent Study 6- 7 p.m.	22 AA 7:00 pm	23
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>  9:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Worship 10:00 pm Worship  Sunday School	25 Merry Christmas!	26 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	27 Tops 9:00 am  AA Mtg. 7:30pm	28 Church Choir 7:15pm	29	30
31  New Years Eve 9:30 am Worship						



**Immanuel**  
Church Office  
814-833-4062  
Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9:30am—2:00 pm.

[immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)

## 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*



### **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.:

### **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



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.**