

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June Newsletter 2025



*1002 Powell Avenue
Erie PA 16505*

814-833-4062

Take a Peek and See What's Inside the June Edition

- ◆ Grace & Peace from the Pastor's Desk
- ◆ Worship & Music
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ 24 Hour Prayer Vigil
- ◆ Book & Bake Sale
- ◆ Thank You
- ◆ Pentecost Flower Order Form
- ◆ Prayer List
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- ◆ Green Corner
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- ◆ The Difference Between Prayer and Intercession
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- ◆ Recipe of the Month
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- ◆ The Crazy Quilt
- ◆ June Events
- ◆ Church Council & Staff

**If you have anything to submit to the July Newsletter, please make sure Brenda has your submission no later than June 25th.
Thank you!**



Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

Summer: Finding God's Grace in the Warmth of Summer

Summer is a season that brings warmth, light, and a sense of renewal. It is a time when nature is in full bloom, and the days are long and filled with sunshine. As Christians, we can find deep spiritual significance in this season and use it as an opportunity to draw closer to God and reflect on God's grace and goodness.

Summer is a reminder of the beauty and intricacy of God's creation. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God: the skies proclaim the work of God's hands." As we observe the vibrant colors of flowers, the lush greenery of trees, and the serene blue of the sky, we are reminded of God's creativity and love for us.

Take time during the summer to reflect on the blessings God has bestowed upon you. Whether it's a peaceful moment by the beach or an evening spent watching the sunset, use these times to give thanks for God's provision and care. Gratitude opens our hearts to recognize and appreciate the countless ways God is at work in our lives. As we notice these expressions of blessings a way to show our gratitude is to remember to support our church with our tithes and offerings. Many summer activities take us away from the church however as we feel our gratitude to God we can express our gratitude in the tangible way of ensuring our offerings do not take a summer break.

Summer often provides a break from our regular routines, offering a chance to rest and rejuvenate. Jesus recognized the importance of rest, as seen in Mark 6:31, "come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Use this season to find moments of solitude and rest in God's presence, allowing God to renew your spirit and strengthen your faith.

The longer days and pleasant summer weather provide ample opportunities to connect with others. Whether it's a family barbecue, a church picnic, or a community service project, these gatherings can be wonderful ways to build relationships and share God's love. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together."

Summer is a season rich with opportunities for spiritual reflection, renewal, and growth. As you bask in the warmth of the sun and enjoy the beauty of creation, remember that God's love and grace are ever-present. Use this season to draw closer to God, serve others, and embrace the community around you. Let the summer be a time of deepening your faith and experiencing the fullness of God's blessings.

May the warmth of summer remind you of the warmth of God's love, and may you find God's grace in every moment. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I am available in the office Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. (or a little after) until 3:00 p.m. (or a little after). Thursdays I am in the office from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The church number is 814-833-4062. My cell phone is 724-557-2386 and you can call me anytime. Please leave a message if I am not able to answer.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Karen



Worship & Music in the News.....

**There will be a Worship
& Music Meeting on
June 10th at 1:30 PM.**



**Pop into the lounge after
worship the first Sunday
of the month for a cup of
coffee and conversation
with your Immanuel
family! What a wonderful
way to share you Sunday
morning!**



**Quarter
Sunday
is the
first
Sunday
of each
month.**



— GPS DESTINATION —

JESUS

Bible School

July 13—July 15



**Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 10th and Powell,
as we travel through the Bible to find Jesus.**

Sunday July 13 to Tuesday July 15, 2025.

Lessons, music, snacks, and fun!

Phone 814-833-4062 to register

24 HOUR **PRAYER VIGIL**

JUNE 27TH 5 PM—JUNE 28TH 5 PM

Join in as Immanuel holds a 24 hour prayer vigil to ask for God's guidance to lead our church.

The prayer vigil will be held in 1 hour increments with 2 people in each time slot.

We are also asking if there are people willing to provide security during the prayer vigil to reach out to Pastor Karen.

As important that the prayer vigil is to us, your safety is also important.

Please sign up today! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can call the church office at (814) 833-4062 to schedule your time.

****Prayer material will be provided****

*Can't you afford to give an hour of
your time to God?*



BOOK & BAKE SALE

*The Book & Bake Sale
raised \$221.25.*

*A warm thank you to those
who worked the sale:
Cindy Eckman, Bill
Kostur, Barb Couglin,
Donna Dorler and Mary
Masters.*

*Thank you to those who
donated baked goods.*



Don't forget the next Book
& Bake Sale, November 4th.

If you have books to
donate, you can bring those
into the office.

Thanks again!





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

643 west 17th Street + Phone: (814) 452-3518

Erie, PA 16502-1698 holytrinityerie@yahoo.com

Mr. Roland D. King, Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Harbaugh, Pastor Emeritus

February 25, 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church

102 Powell Ave.

Erie, PA 16505

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you so very much for your financial donation of \$409.00 to the ministries at Holy Trinity. Our Soup & Pasta Kitchen, Clothes Closet and Food Ministry are only able to continue to provide for the people of this neighborhood due to the generous hearts of people such as yourselves.

The Soup & Pasta Kitchen served over 8,540 meals and the Food Ministry distributed 1,417 bags of prepared food in 2024. With your support we are able to continue serving in God's ministry to help feed body and spirit with a good meal and fellowship.

With the Soup/Pasta Kitchen now reopened and serving meals Tuesday evening dinner and lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and distribution of rescued prepared food bags on Tuesday evenings we continue to serve people in need. Soon we will opening our "Laundry of Love", a free laundromat for our neighbors and friends. We will also be offering the opportunity to take care of some personal hygiene concerns while at the laundromat, providing soap, shampoo and linens, and using the shower rooms providing;

"a little soap, a little shampoo and a little dignity"

Holy Trinity members and the many volunteers from our ecumenical partners, offer loving hearts and helping hands, but only with support from people like you through prayer and contributions is it possible to fulfill God's mission with our neighbors and friends.

Thank you again, and God bless.

In Christ,

Mr. Ron King

Pastoral Assistant

Thank
You



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

In celebration of Pentecost, June 8, 2025 you are given the opportunity to order red geraniums in memory/honor of loved ones. These will be on the altar on Pentecost Sunday and then planted outside the church. Please fill out the form below and return it, with payment to the church office by June 2, 2025.

I would like to order _____ plants at \$7.00 each.

Amount enclosed _____

Given by _____

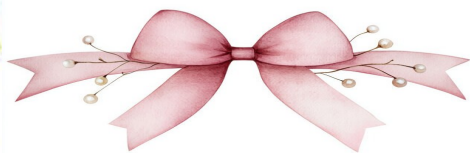
In honor of / or memory of:

Help will be needed for planting - if you are willing to help with this task please contact the church office.



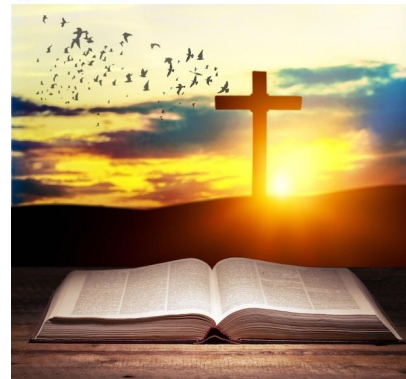
Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card. Or just stop by to share a cup of coffee and a few minutes of your time.

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



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.



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Vince Belinski—Diane's Nephew
Karen Byrd
Rev. Bill Cox
Chick Crosby (Sally Leubin's brother)
Janice Kreger
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long
Penney Maloney
Denise Arnold
The Botwright family
Connie Cooper
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman
Kyle Husted
Carol Ketchel
Vickie & Mark Fischer
Bishop Michael Lozano
Brenda Matson
Carole Rickrode
Bob Roemer
Alice Tillotson—Mary Hauser's sister
Joel Whickham—Mary Hauser's brother

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.



- 1 James Pfeiffer**
- 4 Tiffany Mays & Carrie Penpek**
- 6 Cindy Geddes & Johnathan Hunter**
- 9 David Summers II**
- 10 Sandra Kocur & Tatum Yusz**
- 11 Jared Minski & Doug Stewart**
- 14 Karen Byrd & David Eckman**
- 16 William Redditt**
- 21 Dennis Coughlin**
- 25 Alex Lee & Sam Lee**
- 26 Bonnie Steinbaugh-Rispin**
- 29 Dennis Rohan**
- 30 Isabella Botwright**



- 23 Bill and Debbie Redditt**
- 27 Tom and Judy Stewart**
- 29 Ray and Mary Kreger**



Capital Campaign - Boiler:
 Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$35,642.38

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.

RECYCLING WITH A PURPOSE



Is your community or organization interested in removing plastic waste from the environment AND receiving a beautiful park bench for your efforts? Here is an opportunity that has been successful in several counties in our Synod.

“Trex® is proud to sponsor local recycling programs in communities throughout the country. For example, for K-12 schools, civic organizations, houses of worship and university organizations etc. If your team can collect more than 1,000 pounds of soft film plastics and packaging in a 12-month span, we will award a Trex® furniture bench to your organization.” (www.trex.com) Trex is a company that manufactures composite decking and furniture. This recycling program encourages groups to collect plastic such as: pallet wrap, case overlap (i.e., water bottles), produce bags, bubble wrap, and lots more. The items must be clean, dry and free of food residue. At Trex, Sustainability is not just a buzzword-it’s a founding principle of our company and part of our DNA. For more than three decades, we have continued to derive value from discarded materials, diverting waste from landfills and waterways. Our composite decking is made from 95% recycled materials, so recycling plays a considerable role in our day-to-day operations.” Bryan Fairbanks, President and CEO of Trex® Company.

Participation is SO easy...sign up at <https://nextrex.com/view/recyclingchallenge>. You will receive helpful ideas, print-outs and other suggestions to make this project an easy one. Better yet, there are local groceries/stores (Tops, Wegman’s, Giant Eagle, Kohl’s and more) that provide collection points for your plastic, and provide weighing information. Once your organization is enrolled, you will need to collect 1,000 pounds of plastic within a 12-month period to be eligible for a park bench. Some of the organizations have cooperation agreements with dollar stores, etc., which allows the plastic to accumulate quickly.

If you know of other recycling opportunities, please share them with the Green Team so that we can share it as we care for our creation.

*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.
Like and follow us on Facebook: [Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)*

Contact us at: nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

June 2025

Happy Birthday Lorraine Hornaman!!

Immanuel Lutheran helped Miss Lorraine celebrate her birthday on Sunday, May 5th following worship! We hope your birthday was special!!



Develop a heart of generosity

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35b

A friend who regularly volunteers to serve meals to the needy illustrates the truth behind Jesus' teaching.

"It's so rewarding to help," she says, explaining that the time and hard work is worth it. "I think get more out of it than they do."

When we give generously, it is often we who are blessed. But more than just enjoying a pleasant emotion, the act of giving truly blesses us by shaping our personalities and developing our character. That's a truth affirmed by research. (Check out "The Science of Generosity" white paper from the University of California at Berkeley, or The Science of Generosity Initiative at Notre Dame University!)

Generous people tend to be the kind of good folk we want as friends and neighbors. And they frequently are generous not only with their money but also their time, their love and their very selves. In other words, they are not merely generous, they are *generous-hearted*.

Anyone can develop a generous heart, or a *more* generous heart. Begin by deepening your relationship with God by seeking guidance and wisdom in daily prayer. Then simply begin to pour yourself out for the sake of others, giving generously as a spiritual exercise and discipline. Here are four ideas that won't cost you a dime:

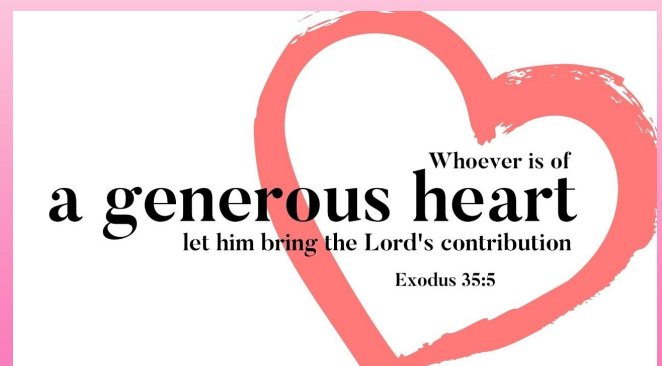
Give a smile. Smile at everyone you see. You may be surprised at how it changes your mood.

Give a nice thought. Say something nice to everyone – family and friends, coworkers, parishioners, store clerks, folks in an elevator.

Give a courtesy. Hold a door open for the person behind you; at the grocery, let someone with just one or two items go ahead of you; stop for pedestrians.

Give your time. Find ways to serve people face-to-face: tutor schoolchildren, serve community meals, visit your church's shut-ins, teach ESL, volunteer at a homeless shelter.

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than receive. When we give our time, talents and possessions, God blesses us by developing in us a generous heart.



What's the Difference Between Prayer and Intercession?

Prayer can be for yourself or anybody else. But praying for someone else would be called *intercession*.

In other words, you would pray without interceding when you're just talking to God about yourself, your own life, or about Him—in worship, thanksgiving, and adoration. But intercession can begin to happen when you move past that and start to pray for God's will to be done in someone else's life.

The difference between prayer and intercession doesn't stop there, though, because:

But intercession IS spiritually violent.

Intercession is forceful. The actual definition of intercession in the Hebrew (Biblical) language is “to impinge, by accident or violence or by importunity.”*

Intercession brings one thing into violent contact with another thing so hard that it makes an impression.

What's the “one thing” that does the contacting? You.

And what (or who) are you contacting? God.

What kind of an impression—or mark—are you trying to make? Simple! You're trying to get His will done here on earth—in a situation, in another person, or in yourself.

So the actual definition of the word “intercession,” in modern English, is:

- To collide with God violently until His will is enforced on the earth.
- To stand in the gap between God and man—as a priest between Heaven and earth—and say, “Father God, Your Kingdom come! Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!” ... and Continuing to do so until you see the results you know God desires on the earth.

Happy Father's Day!!!

Celebrate Father's Day and all fathers with these Bible verses about being a godly dad and husband. These passages of Scripture declare what God intended for men and how we can celebrate our fathers.

Exodus 20:12 ~ *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."*

Psalms 103:13 ~ *As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.*

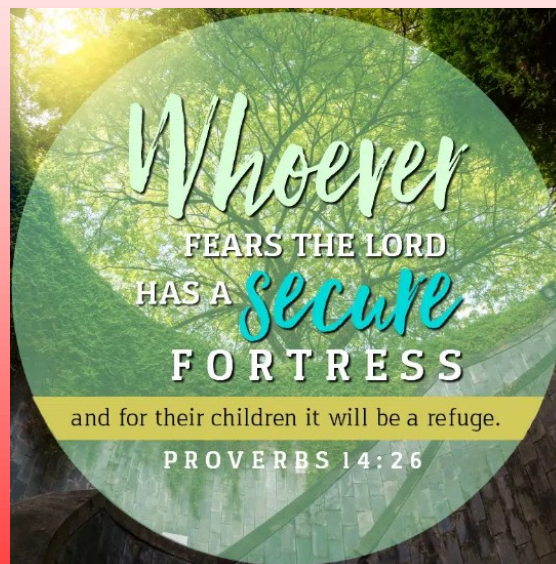
Ephesians 6:4 ~ *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Proverbs 3:11-12 ~ *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Colossians 3:21 ~ *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Proverbs 22:6 ~ *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 23:24 ~ *The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.*





Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
06/01/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
06/08/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Gindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
06/15/25 7:00 PM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
06/22/25 9:30 AM	Brian Moran	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
06/29/25 9:30AM	Kostur		Ron Middaugh

**Are you interested
in becoming a
Lector? We can
make that
happen!
Just reach out to
Pastor Karen!**



Counters for June:
Kim Lee &
Cindy Geddes

Thank you to our
Ushers.

SEA ISLAND WINGS



Ingredients:

Hot Sauce:

- 1 cup hot sauce
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 4 tbs butter

Wings:

- 2 tbs light brown sugar
- 1 tbs salt
- 2 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 tsps. Black pepper
- 2/4 cup olive oil (plus extra for oiling the grill)
- 3 pounds whole chicken wings
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced scallions, optional
- 2 tbs chopped fresh parsley, optional



1. Preheat a grill or grill pan at medium-high heat.
2. For the hot sauce: Mix together the hot sauce, molasses and butter in a small pot. Heat until combined, then set aside.
3. For the wings: Whisk together the brown sugar, salt, garlic powder, smoked paprika and pepper in a bowl. Whisk the oil into the dry mixture, creating a loose rub. Set a quarter of the mixture aside to use for brushing.
4. Slather the wings with the rub. Brush the grill grates with a little olive oil, then add the wings to the grill. Cook, covered, for about 10 minutes, then baste with the reserved rub mixture. Flip and baste with any remaining rub and cook for another 15 minutes. Remove the wings from the grill and toss with the hot sauce in a large bowl. Transfer to a platter and sprinkle with the scallions and parsley, if using.

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour	2 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	3 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	4 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	5	6 AA 7:00 pm Game Night 7 pm	7
8 Pentecost 9:30 am Worship	9 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	10 Worship & Music Meeting 1:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	11 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	12 Book Club 7 pm	13 AA 7:00 pm Game Night 7 pm	14
15 Happy Father's Day 9:30 am Worship	16 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	17 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	18 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	19	20 AA 7:00 pm Game Night 7 pm	21
22 9:30 am Worship	23 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	24 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	25 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30pm	26	27 AA 7 pm Game Night 7 pm	28
29 9:30 am Worship Council Meeting	30 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm					



A CRAZY QUILT

They do not make them any more,
For quilts are cheaper at the store
Thank woman's labor, though a wife
Men think the cheapest thing in life.
But now and then a quilt is spread
Upon a quaint old walnut bed,
A crazy quilt of those old days
That I am old enough to praise.

Some woman sewed these points and squares
Into a pattern like life's cares.
Here is a velvet that was strong.
The poplin that she wore so long.
A fragment from her daughter's dress,
Like her, a vanished loveliness;
Old patches of such things as these.
Old garments and old memories.

And what is life? A crazy quilt!
Sorrow and joy, and grace and guilt,
With here and there a square of blue
For some old happiness we knew;
And so the hand of time will take
The fragments of our lives and make,
Out of life's remnants, as they fall,
A thing of beauty, after all.

~Douglas Malloch~

Thank You Miss Janice for sharing this with us.



June 2nd: Erie County Senior Expo

From 10 am—1 pm at the Bayfront Convention Center

Free Admission * Free Health Screenings * Free Refreshments * and Prizes Every Hour.

June 2nd—July 28th: Monday Music in the Woods

6 pm—8 pm at the Asbury Woods Nature Center

Bring your own lawn chair or blanket to sit on while you enjoy the music.

There is a different food truck each week. Wine from Pisano Family Wine Cellar is available for purchase.

June 18th—July 23rd: UPMC Sunset Music Series

6 week summer music series. 5:30 pm –8:30 pm

Each week there are two live bands performing.

Enjoy the local food trucks, ice cream and the extended beach hours for swimming.

June 6th: 4th Annual Girard Art Walk

4 pm—10 pm

Local artists showcase their work for everyone to enjoy.

There will be wine, food trucks, live music and more/

June 7th: Edinboro Lake Lantern Festival

7 pm—10 pm

Event will feature family yoga on the beach, music, local food trucks, face painting and more. An evening of family fun!

June 12-15th: 35th Thurston Classic Hot Air Ballon Rally

Event is free of charge.

Bring a blanket to sit on as there is no seating.

There are no rides offered at this event.

Immanuel
Church Office
814-833-4062

Office Hours
8:30—12:30
Monday—Thursday

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 2nd Sunday of the month*

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386
Pastor's Office Hours – Tuesday 1:00-
2:00 Thursday, 9:30am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin
Organist/Music Director: Allan Sloven-
kay
Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Matson

Sunday School

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

2025 Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719
VP: Joe Byrne 814-397-7319
Sec.: Brenda Durst 814-873-0451
Fin. Sec.: Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855
Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756

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
COFFEE HOUR 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY
SOUP COOK BOOKLET AVAILABLE

Finance

Council liaison: Zack Middaugh
ANNUAL Budget

Property

Council liaison: Rick Kuntz
Committee Chair: Debbie Redditt
FACILITY MAINTENANCE
RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Stewardship

Council liaison: Dave Mays

Social Ministry Committee

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski
Council Liaison: Brenda Durst

Worship & Music

Liaison to Worship: Joe Byrne

Christian Education

Council liaison: Mary Hauser

