

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

214 N Pennsylvania Avenue
(724) 478-1283

P.O. Box 275

Apollo, PA 15613
office@flcapollo.org

A congregation of the Southwest Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PASTORAL PARAGRAPHS

October 2025

Southwestern
Pennsylvania Synod
Bishop Melissa Stoller
412-367-8222

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
800-638-3522

COUNCIL

Mary Beamer
Lisa Carnahan
Carmen Cypher
Cal Deemer
Dorothy Doty
Kim Harmon
Deb Kerr
Pr Caroline Clifford
Georgia Richardson
Cindy Shaner

STAFF

Pr Caroline Clifford
Ken Carnahan
Lisa Carnahan
Dorothy Doty
Ben Coulter
Gregg LeMay
Georgia Richardson
Leslie Smeltzer

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Have you had times in your life where you feel God has let you down? That maybe God is not there for you? Maybe 1 John 5:1-5 can renew our faith:

“5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

Believe it or not, even pastors have times where they are not sure where God is in midst of terrible things in the world. But I know I believe in God and Jesus Christ, and that we are children of God. Give God time to be there with you; God loves you and wants what is best for you. It may not seem like it at the time, but when you can look back you can see where God may have been there when it didn't feel like it. And it may take a while for you to be able to see it. And attending worship, doing devotions, and attending a Bible study are also ways to get closer to God. Be patient and don't give up in your love of God: God loves you.

Blessings, Pr. Caroline

The Reverend Dr. Caroline E. Clifford, Pastor

HAM LOAVES

**First Lutheran Church
214 N Pennsylvania Ave
Apollo, PA 15613**

Individual Loaves

\$4.00 Each

October 22, 23 and 24, 2025

Pick up Noon - 1pm

To place order call :

Church (724-478-1283) or Cheryl (724-567-7823)

Orders due by October 20 at Noon

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2025

CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

This year's Crop Walk will be virtual. Set your goal, get sponsors and walk when it is convenient for you! Please have your pledges turned in by Sunday, October 12 so they can be sent in. Lisa Carnahan will take care of registering our church and collecting and sending in the donations.



We will be observing All Saints' Sunday on November 2, 2025. Anyone who died this past year and was under the auspices of First Lutheran Church will automatically be included and read aloud on that day.

This day is also known as Church Memorial Day. If you have any loved ones that you wish to remember, you are welcome to put their name(s) on this sheet and place it in the offering or outside the office so their names can be included in the bulletin.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Name: _____



First Lutheran Church of Apollo

HAM LOAVES

October 22, 23 & 24, 2025

\$4.00 each

The ladies of W.E.L.C.A. will be making individual (miniature) ham loaves for sale on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (**October 22, 23 & 24**) at the church. The original recipe, that so many people loved, will be used. The price of each ham loaf will be **\$4.00**.

Pick-up will be from the church at **12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m.** on each of the three days.

Anyone wishing to purchase the ham loaves may complete the form below, and drop it in the offering plate, or contact Cheryl Coulter at (724)567-7823, or the church office at (724)478-1283. Deadline for placing orders is Noon on **Monday, October 20, 2025**.

HAM LOAF ORDER

The number of individual ham loaves that I would like to order

_____ @ \$4.00 = \$ _____.

Please circle the day you would like to pick up your order on
between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday
October 22**

**Thursday
October 23**

**Friday
October 24**

Name _____

Phone number _____





October 2025

CONGRATULATIONS to all those celebrating Birthdays:

5 – Kathy Endlich	11 – Thomas Burkett	22 – Bruce Williamson
5 – Lauren Smeltzer	16 – Kevin Geer	25 – Rich Moore
8 – Helen Altman	18 – Dana Fruechtel	25 – Robbie Deemer
8 – Addison Faith Perry	18 – Travis Beitel	28 – Debbie Dietrick
9 – JoEllen Vergari	22 – Lisa Feerst	29 – Lillian Yamber 94 th

CONGRATULATIONS to all those celebrating Wedding Anniversaries:

- 4 – Anthony & Natalie Perry – 17th
5 – Harold & Earliene Klingensmith – 68th
12 – Vince & Colleen Milie – 51st
15 – Dan & Geri Rosensteel – 59th

Members & Friends in our prayers: Annette Cholock, Ralph Kilgore, Jr., Shirley Milanak, Family of Barbara Altmire, Debbie Schultz Coulter, Laurie Meier & Family, Kim Frederick, Jack Goga, Mary Shoop, Kathleen Altemus, Orvil Smith, Michael Hooks, Gloria Cornett, Norma Humphreys, Ron Kerns, Jerry Kerns, Thomas Coulter, Melissa Held, Linda Smith, Lavina Stefaniak, Frank Stefaniak, Jr., Kelly Gourley, Anthony Ward, Darwin Moore, Mark Otwell, Doug Rearick, Barry DeMay, Joey Valella, David Fallecker, Debbie Townsend, Sandra Rivera, Nancy Hart, Katie Loftus, Thomas Hileman, Tyler Stone, Eric Kennedy and Baby Lucas Michael.

Members and friends in our continuing prayers: Mary Ellen Emerick, Mark Kestner, Pastor Al Petrill, Pastor Jack Delk, Barbara Grance, Pastor Richard Grance, Ed Smith, Scott Aikens, Brian Stone, Jim Stone III, Heather Eppley, Al Kochka, Audrey & Susan Siems, David Ellison, Debbie Hill, Virginia Madison, Jack Tickle, Darlene Davis, Ed & Rose Haberchak, Bill & Diane Sloan, Luke Kanish, Tim Kanish, Dakota Stone, and Shane Carnahan.

Our Homebound Members: Joanne Newingham, Cindy Bush, Donna Wilver, Lillian Yamber, Annette Cholock, Judy Altman, Yvonne Hilty, Earliene Klingensmith, Frances Klingensmith, Richard Mangus, Tom Mangus, Elinor Moody and Diane Papaila.

We ask God's care for the following Military Personnel and their loved ones: Stephen Porter and Nevin Downey.

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*The Mission of First Church is
to make God's good news
in Jesus Christ a reality
in the world*



Memorial Calendar Open Memorials

Flowers \$50	October 5, 12 & 19	November 2, 9, 23 & 30
Bulletins \$10	October 19 & 26	November 2, 9 & 23
Celebrates \$10	October 5, 12, 19 & 26	November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
Wafers \$15	-----	November
Glasses \$10	-----	November

*The Memorial Calendar for 2026 is now available! Please stop by the office to sign up.
The calendar fills up quickly so please check on dates before sending in your money.
Thank you!*



FOOD BANK TURKEY FUND



We are collecting donations again for the Turkey Fund which benefits the Apollo-Ridge Food Bank. Any amount that you would like to donate will be accepted. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Turkey Fund" with your name on the envelope. If you are writing a check, write "Turkey Fund" in the memo area on the check. We would like to have all donations by November 23, 2025.





If you are in need of a pastoral visit or are in the hospital or have been in the hospital, please contact the office @ 724-478-1283 or Pastor Caroline 814-769-5662. She cannot visit if she isn't alerted to your condition.

A reminder that any announcements that you would like included in the newsletter need to be given to the Office by the 20th of the month. Printing of the newsletter begins before the day of assembly.



October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Pastor in the office Spaghetti Dinner/Bake Sale 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice @ 6 p.m. Quilt Club Mtg. @ 7 p.m.	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Virtual Crop Walk	6	7 WELCA @ 1 p.m.	8 Bldg. & Grounds Mtg. @ 9 a.m. Council Mtg. @ 10:30 a.m.	9 Pastor in the office Choir Practice @ 6 p.m.	10	11 Men's Breakfast @ Valley Dairy @ 8:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch Meeting at church @ 3:45 p.m./Old Route 66 Grille Quilt Club Sew-In
12 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Crop Walk Pledges Due	13	14	15 Food4Kids Packing @ 3 p.m.	16 Pastor in the office Worship & Music @ 2 p.m. Apollo Reunion Mtg @ 5:30 pm Choir Practice @ 6 pm Quilt Club Mtg. @ 7 p.m.	17	18 Quilt Club Sew-In
19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	20	21	22 Ham Loaves/Pick Up Noon – 1 p.m.	23 Pastor in the office Ham Loaves/Pick Up Noon – 1 p.m. Choir Practice @ 6 p.m.	24 Ham Loaves/Pick Up Noon – 1 p.m.	25 Quilt Club Sew-In
26 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED	27 Lions Club Mtg. @ 6 p.m.	28 Newsletter Assembly & Mailing @ 10 a.m.	29	30 Pastor in the office Choir Practice @ 6 p.m.	31	



October 2025



DATE	5	12	19	26
ASSISTING MINISTER	William Kerr	Georgia Richardson	David Coulter	Tammy Manko
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Mary Beamer	Tammy Manko	Carmen Cypher	Melvin Silvis
LECTOR	Lisa Carnahan	René Copeland	William Kerr	Kaylie Peace
CANTOR	David Coulter	David Coulter	David Coulter	David Coulter
USHERS	Melvin Silvis Donna Stone Dorothy Doty Vivian Boyer	Calvin Deemer Robbie Deemer Jack Tickle Beverly Tickle	Melvin Silvis John Hollis Sandra Hollis Joe Marchitelli	Calvin Deemer Kim Harmon Eloise Loughlin Kim Kneppshield
ACOLYTE	Brennon Faulkner	Melvin Silvis	Calvin Deemer	Kim Harmon
ALTAR GUILD	Eloise Loughlin Carmen Cypher	Georgia Richardson Grace Olson	Robbie Deemer Kim Harmon	Vivian Boyer Dorothy Doty
PEW COMMITTEE	Leslie Smeltzer	Leslie Smeltzer	Leslie Smeltzer	Leslie Smeltzer
CAMERA PERSON	Kaylie Peace	Lisa Carnahan	Kevin Geer	John Shaner

Please obtain your own substitute if these dates conflict with your schedule.

Please notify the church office by Wednesday of any changes.

If we are not in the office, you may leave a message on the answering machine.

Thank You!





**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

Office of the Bishop

Melissa L. Stoller, Bishop

412-367-8222

melissa.stoller@swpasynod.org

1014 Perry Hwy, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. ~1 Corinthians 15:58

Last week I began my term as bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod. Since September 1 this year was Labor Day, I was able to spend the day with my family, enjoying the gorgeous late summer weather. As we traveled through the western Pennsylvania countryside, I was filled with gratitude for the great honor you have given me to serve as your bishop in this place and time.

We are not in easy times, my friends. And while I know that people have made this claim for thousands of years, these days feel particularly alarming as so many feel tense, frustrated, and fearful.

We seem to talk to one another in soundbites and social media posts. Words are supercharged and definitions have become politicized. We are directed into echo chambers of information by massive communications companies that seek to sell us things money cannot even buy. And even though we know deep down that these messages are only partial truths that cut away at relationships and our shared humanity, we still fall prey to their implications.

So where is our hope? As a colleague recently asked me: Where are you encouraged? For me, the answer is in our witness which comes through the power of the holy spirit: Jesus is Lord! This encourages me. This grounds me. This is our hope, our deep breath, our joy: Jesus is Lord.

Our self-emptying Lord God loves us, loves the world and meets us continuously in bread, wine, water and word. As a church we steward these mysteries of God that we will never fully understand, but trust are true. And as we love God, we love our neighbors and proclaim this love. These are not easy things; even in the best of times they are not easy. But our labor is not vanity. Our life together is precious and essential.

As we approach our ministry together as a synod in the days, months and years ahead, we are invited to see our work together in the Lord as vital to the health of our church and our world. Loving one another through these difficult times; inviting each other into conversation; caring for those who have been lost or neglected; affirming the image of God that is held in our human family: This is our work for the sake of the world.

Be of good courage my beloved, our labor is not in vain.

+ *Melissa*

2025 Health & Education Expo

Accessing information for Caregivers,
Older Adults, and Persons with Disabilities.

Wednesday, October 22
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Westmoreland Mall



Free Admission

Information

Resources

Health Screenings

Vaccination Clinic

Refreshments

Entertainment

Door Prizes

Transportation available through GO Westmoreland.

To schedule a ride, call: 724-832-2706

Please bring a non-perishable food donation
to benefit the Westmoreland Food Bank.

For more information, call the Area Agency on Aging at:

724-830-4444 or 1-800-442-8000

Promoted by the Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging,
Westmoreland County Commissioners, and Trib Total Media.



September Council Highlights

The council meeting was held on September 10th at 6:30 PM. The following is a summary of the meeting:

1. Apollo Lion's Club sent a letter asking for donations for the Veteran's Dinner. A motion was made by Debbie Kerr to donate \$125 for Apollo Lion's Club Veteran's Appreciation Dinner. It was seconded by Georgia Richardson. The motion was approved.
2. Pr. Caroline has begun to make phone calls and visits to the homebound and those in the hospital. Things have been going well for her and the congregation.
3. God's Work – Our Hands Project - Bill Kerr suggested that we contact the Food Bank to see if we can help with something in October.
4. A couple will be having a wedding at the church on Monday November 3rd. Council approved it, as they are non-members.
5. A workday was held on September 17th to clean up any needs in the church. Seventeen attended and all went well. See news article about it.
6. Recommendation was made to council by the Endowment Committee to replace Debbie Zahumensky, who is unable to attend the meetings due to health issues. Since Lisa Carnahan takes the minutes for the meetings, Lisa was then approved to be on the committee.
7. WELCA: A sit-down Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale has been scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2025. Ham loaves will be made Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 22, 23, 24, 2025.
8. The finance committee has suggested that any Budget suggestions for 2026 need to be submitted to the committee as soon as possible so the budget process can be started.

REFORMATION SUNDAY IS 10/26/25 – DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED!



DRESSES and BRITCHES

The next meeting will be October 7 at 2 in the fellowship hall of St. Paul's.

This will be a reorganization meeting. Please plan to attend.

Non-sewers are always welcome! We can always find something creative for you to do!

Any questions, please contact Glenda at 724-567-6494.



Men's Breakfast Buddies will be
Saturday, October 11, 2025
@ 8:30 a.m.



Ladies Lunch Bunch will be
Saturday, October 11, 2025
Ladies will meet at the church @ 3:45 p.m.
to go to Old Route 66 Grille



Thank you for your many heartfelt cards of Best Wishes and prayers during my recent surgery and brief hospitalization. With much rest and time to heal, each day I feel better thanks to your thoughts and prayers.

Love, Debbie Kerr

WATCH PARTY – BISHOP MELISSA STOLLER'S INSTALLATION

St. Paul's Highfield (1595 Dime Rd. Vandergrift, PA 15690) is hosting a watch party for Bishop Melissa Stoller's installation. This will be held on Saturday, October 18. Please arrive by 12:45 to allow sufficient time for everyone to settle in before the service begins at 1:00. If you have any questions, please contact the church: (724) 567-7462 or hifields@comcast.net.

WORKDAY – SEPTEMBER 17, 2025



Power-washed sign, wall and sidewalks	Vacuumed pew cushions	Installed 2 new Faucets in Kitchen
Inspected insulation at Parsonage	Cleaned pews with Murphy's Oil Soap	Removed old tires from Boiler Room
Washed the Exterior Doors	Cleaned Hymnals	Defrosted and Cleaned Freezer
Weeded Front Yard	Cleaned Alter with Murphy's Oil soap	Cleaned tables in Fellowship Room
And much more!!!!		

Thanks to all who helped!
Plan to join us next time – We had FUN!

**Thank
you!**

*Bill and I want to thank you for our anniversary wishes.
We loved all the phone calls, text messages and the beautiful cards.*

*Thank you!
Bill & Deb*

Living Lutheran

The promised land

Farmland owned by Ohio congregation a hunger gift that keeps on giving

By Rachel Pritchett September 5, 2025



Editor's note: The ELCA has a long and meaningful history of ministry in rural areas. This story is the first in a new series highlighting innovative rural ministries by ELCA congregations and communities today.

Early in the morning, Jacob Staley grabs his coffee and is out the door, with no time for breakfast. In his black Ford F-150, he drives across the 1,500 acres he and his dad Craig Staley own and work. He checks the turkey barns first thing. Then he canvasses the fields and assesses the big grain bins. After that, it's over to the machinery area, where a piece of equipment may need work. A day of planting and harvesting follows. Farm paperwork gets done before bed.

"You name the job, I do it," said Staley, 31, whose grandfather, Kenneth Doner, and great-grandfather, Paul Doner, did the same thing, right here.

The Staley farm, CKS Farms LLC, is one of several hundred similar family farms located in Van Wert County, Ohio—a flat, once marshy country where Germans came and stayed in the 1800s.

Jacob and Craig Staley also tend to 100 nearby acres that is owned by St. Mark Lutheran, a church in downtown Van Wert founded in 1864. When St. Mark received this plot of land as a bequest in 1949, it was valued at \$19,000. Since then, the harvest has multiplied, generating hundreds of thousands of dollars for the church and its ministries. Today, St. Mark gives roughly \$15,000 annually to fight hunger—above and beyond its normal mission outreach.

"We're doing things that maybe we would not have been able to do, or [to] the extent that it is being done," said Will Haggis, pastor of St. Mark.

Clara Harvey made it possible.

A pastor serving St. Mark at the time visited Harvey daily when she was in a nursing home in the mid-1940s, even though she wasn't a member. When she died in 1947, she left the farmland to the church. Her family objected, but the land went to the church two years later.

At first, proceeds from the sale of crops went to the church's general use and outreach. But in 2001, the congregation voted to funnel the proceeds from its farmland into efforts to alleviate hunger, Jacob Staley said.

Money from the land has helped local food banks and students in need. It has also funded Haven of Hope, a men's homeless shelter, and Off the Streets Van Wert County, which helps homeless families get housing.

Beyond Van Wert County, funds from St. Mark's farmland go to ELCA World Hunger and its Good Gifts program, and Lutheran Disaster Response. Funds also go to the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem.

Dan Rift, ELCA director for congregational generosity, noticed and appreciated a \$11,500 gift from St. Mark for ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. "This is a congregation that already has strong mission support, and the hunger [offering] is above that. That is something quite special and I think quite inspiring," he said.

Duty to feed the hungry runs deep in farmers, he explained. Homesteaders in his own family came to their new land in faith, and they felt blessed. Responding by providing for others came naturally, particularly among Lutheran farmers.

"There's this kind of sense ... that we were stewards of the earth."

"That's what a farm's supposed to do," Craig Staley agreed.



St. Mark's model is unusual in that it uses church-owned farmland to make this happen. But there have been similar models over the years. Rift recalled times when farmers tithed a part of their crops or profits or when volunteers came in and did the work.

Briefly after World War II, farmers tossed bags of grain onto trains that made their way across America and destined for a hungry Europe that was rebuilding. That early effort folded into what became the global hunger entity today known as Church World Service.

No matter the model, providing food for the hungry has always meant working together, what Rift calls "alignment." The Spirit is at work when congregations, farmers and workers together bring their resources to the table to accomplish what cannot be done alone.

Fittingly, Jacob and wife Brooke Staley have a son, Canaan—named for the promised land. His name complements farmland that holds the promise of nourishment for the vulnerable for years to come.

"This is a significant ministry," Haggis concluded. "It will continue."



Ethel L. Verney Fund Grant

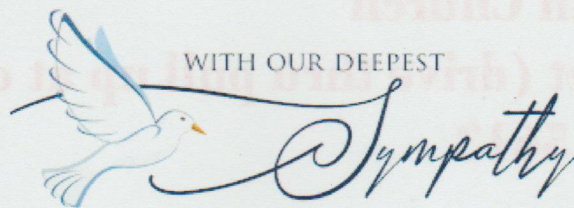



Mission Endowment Fund of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

This fund was established in 2014 as a result of a bequest from Ethel L. Verney for "relief and support of people living in poverty" on the territory of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod. Congregations, agencies, institutions, camps, and Rostered Leaders of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, may apply for grants for up to three years in a row with the consideration of the amount requested/received decreasing in successive years.

First Church took advantage of this generous offer and applied and received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for Food4Kids in 2024.

In 2025, we applied again. On March 5, 2025, we received a letter from Pastor Jeffrey Schock, Board Chair of the Mission Endowment Fund Board, awarding us \$9,950 for our Food4Kids Ministry. The monies will be released in quarterly distributions throughout 2025.

We pray that this ministry will continue to flourish and bless the many people who serve. We are very grateful to have received this grant.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Barbara A. Altmire upon her recent death on September 6, 2025.

+Grant eternal rest unto her O Lord+
+And may perpetual light shine upon her+

October's Memory Verse

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Galatians 5:14



EAT IN or DRIVE THRU SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BAKE SALE

DATE: Thursday, October 2, 2025

Time: 4pm – 6:30pm

**Place: First Lutheran Church
317 3RD Street (drive thru pull up at curb)
Apollo, PA 15613**

Cost: \$10/adults \$5/children

Preorders Welcome: 724-478-1283

Educator, Colleague, Friend: A Legacy of Respect and Dignity

Barbara A. (Matson) Altmire of Apollo passed away peacefully at home on Sept. 6, 2025, surrounded by family. Barbara was married to the late James W. Altmire.

Barbara was a dedicated educator who was committed to her faith, professional career, and the greater community.

Barbara exemplified the qualities of a distinguished educator devoted to children, teachers, support staff, administrators and parents.

After graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with her bachelor's degree in elementary education, Barbara began her career as an elementary school teacher with the Kiski Area School District.

Her dedication led her to obtain a master's degree in education along with graduate certifications at the University of Pittsburgh for Reading Specialist, Reading Supervisor, and Elementary Principal.

Barbara was a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma professional society for women educators (Alle-Kiski Chapter) and a state member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) and Zeta Tau Alpha.

She retired from the Kiski Area School District after 35 years and later was an educational consultant for the Armstrong School District.

Throughout her teaching and administrative career, Barbara demonstrated unwavering commitment to her students, always striving to create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment.

Her compassion and advocacy for young learners made a lasting impact on countless children, shaping their academic journeys and personal growth.

I fondly remember Barbara as the principal of North Vandergrift Elementary, a school with many at-risk students.

Her leadership, along with the support of parents and teachers, made a positive difference in the lives of students.



WILLIAM H. KERR,
ED.D.

Barbara was always present for school activities, PTA meetings, and district-level programs.

She conducted quarterly school assemblies and recognized student achievements — improved performance, honor roll, perfect attendance, and good behavior.

Barbara scheduled a weekly session with students for positive behavior intervention support and attended boys and girls weekend soccer, basketball, and flag-football games at various elementary schools in the district.

When the school security alarm went off at night and a call from the state police was received, Mr. and Mrs. Altmire quickly responded to check the building.

On one occasion, after a classroom uninvent pipe burst and water damaged books, they worked together to clean and dry the materials and even mopped the floor along with the custodian.

As an educational leader, Barbara set a shining example of principle-centered leadership for students, staff, and parents.

She supported quality teaching, educational technology, student social and emotional well-being, productive study habits, and a positive school climate.

Barbara believed the principal's role was to support every child, help set individual goals, and advocate for students' success, regardless of socio-economic background or academic risk.

She was a champion for all students, especially those with special needs.

Barbara will always be remembered by students, parents, teachers, and administrators who knew her best.

Her words were pure, consistently demonstrating an unwavering work ethic and exhibiting the attributes of strong character — integrity, adaptability, and perseverance.

Barbara was also very active in the First Lutheran Church of Apollo.

She was a former Sunday School teacher and previously served on the Church Council, Worship and Music Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee.

Barbara was member of the Women's Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA), which provides support for special activities, bereavement dinners, and community outreach.

Barbara was a colleague, friend, and mentor.

She valued and embodied the motto "first class all the way" by her grace and kindness, classic style, and sophistication.

Barbara taught us how to live and how to die with respect and dignity — a legacy that continues to inspire those who knew her through her principle-centered leadership, kindness, and unwavering support for others.

Living and dying with respect and dignity involves interacting with others in a considerate and fair manner at all stages of life.

Indeed, Barbara Altmire exemplified these core values and beliefs during her distinguished career in education, leadership in church activities, and notable community outreach.

William H. Kerr, Ed.D. is the Court-Appointed Receiver for the Duquesne City School District by the Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County, as recommended by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, for the oversight of academic, financial, and school district operations.