



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

JULY 2023

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

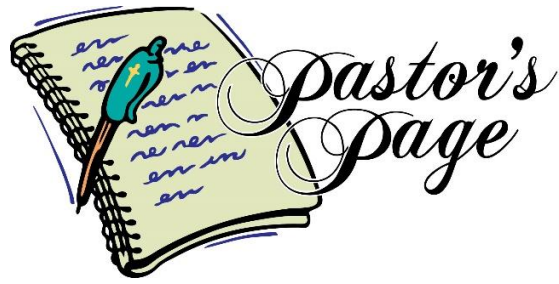
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





"A Generous Spirit"

Summer is a time when many are on vacation. As a result, church attendance and giving are often lower than expected. I thought this would be a good time to look at 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 which serves as an excellent resource on stewardship.

In this passage, the Apostle Paul urges the Corinthian believers to excel in the grace of giving. He encourages them to embrace a mindset of abundance and cheerfulness in their generosity, reminding them that God loves a cheerful giver. But why does Paul place such emphasis on giving? Is it merely to sustain the ministry and the Church? No, there is a deeper truth at work here – a truth that speaks to the very core of our relationship with God and our purpose as stewards of His creation.

First and foremost, let us recognize that everything we have, our possessions, resources, and even our very lives, are gifts from God. As recipients of His abundant grace, we are called to respond with a grateful heart. We are entrusted with the responsibility of managing these blessings faithfully, not just for our own benefit, but for the greater good of others and for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

As stewards, we are called to embrace the spirit of generosity. In verse 6, Paul writes, *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* This principle of sowing and reaping extends beyond monetary giving. It encompasses our time, talents, and resources – anything we can offer for the glory of God.

The act of giving should never be driven by compulsion or a sense of obligation but by a heartfelt desire to participate in Christ's mission. There may be times when we don't even feel like giving, but the act of giving itself can melt our heart of stone and can cultivate a generous spirit.

Furthermore, as the Holy Spirit cultivates a generous spirit within us, we align ourselves with God's character and purposes. The apostle Paul reminds us that God is able to bless us abundantly so that we can abound in every good work. It is not just about receiving blessings but also about being channels of blessings to others. Our giving has the power to impact lives, transform communities, and advance the Gospel in the world.

Stewardship is not a one-time event or occasional act; it is a way of life. It involves consistently seeking God's guidance in managing all aspects of our lives – our time, talents, finances, and relationships. We are called to live with open hands, ready to share the blessings we have received. In doing so, we become vessels of God's grace and love in a broken world.

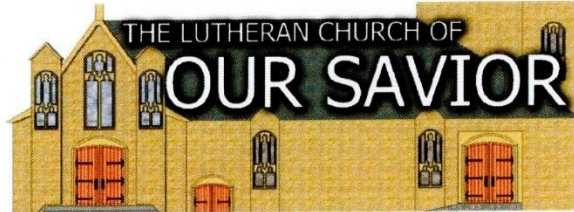
As we reflect upon the message of 2 Corinthians 9, let us remember that stewardship is not about what we can get from God, but rather what we can give back to Him and to others. It is a response to the immeasurable grace poured out upon us. May we be inspired to excel in the grace of giving, embracing a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness that reflects the very heart of our gracious God.



**2023 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE
Monthly Rotation**

	JULY
LEAD COUNTER	Dianne Wuerch
COUNTER	Sue Holway
COUNTER	

**We still need a few more congregational members to help count offerings after Sunday Service, on a Monthly rotating schedule.
If you feel the calling to do so, please contact
Carolyn Alessi, Dianne or Mike Wuerch.**



Our Savior Lutheran | 26 Brunswick Blvd Buffalo 14208

We are collecting donations to send monthly. The offering plate is on the bulletin table behind the back pew. All donation amounts are welcome.

Saturday & Sunday Services or Online

<https://secure.usaepay.com/pay/9nkt6jj6js3wnvhgb/2Z0kggt3>



Abigail Size	Jul. 1
Violet Schober	Jul. 10
Delores Zeeb	Jul. 17
Sharon McGuan	Jul. 22

Jul. 12	Rod & Rhonda Mohr
Jul. 18	Robert & Vi Schober
Jul. 24	Greg & Diane Jakubowski
Jul. 25	Jim & Kathy Rodgers



An abundance of gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

—Stephanie Martin



ESTHER CIRCLE

In July, the Esther Circle is collecting books for our Book (and Bake) Sale on Saturday, August 5th, from 9 am to 3 pm. Please donate books that are in GOOD CONDITION, but NO dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks, Readers Digest, or National Geographic's. Please leave them downstairs anytime during July.

On Monday, July 31st, Esther Circle women will meet at church at 11 a.m. Bring a sandwich (or other lunch) and we will sort and prepare books for the sale.

We are also having a Bake Sale to go with the Book Sale. Baked goods can be brought to church on Friday, Aug. 4th, and we will meet that day to label them for sale. More details will be provided as we get closer to the sale. We are hoping to set up outside for the sale, but that will depend on the weather.

TAKE NOTE: there is NO Esther Circle meeting on the second Monday of July.

Please continue to bring Dash's tapes to Sue Holway, mites to Karen Smith, used printer ink cartridges to Pat Watkins, and cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan. These collections support various mission projects. (And thank you for all your contributions so far this year!)

Enjoy summer! We wait all year for these spring and summer months! Continue to pray for those affected by various storms and fires in other areas. We are blessed to live in the Northeast where weather conditions continue to be relatively safe.

In Christ,
Carol Obot and Sue Holway



On fire for God

English preacher W.E. Sangster (1900-1960) served on an interview panel for ministry applicants. When a nervous candidate stepped forward, he admitted he was rather shy and not likely to ever set the River Thames on fire.

"My dear young brother," Sangster responded, "I am not interested to know if you can set the Thames on fire. What I want to know is this: If I picked you up by the scruff of your neck and dropped you into the Thames, would it sizzle?"



**Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Esther Circle**

Book & Baked Good Sale

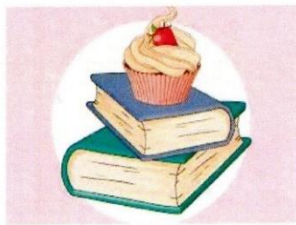
Date: Saturday August 5th

Time: 9am-3pm

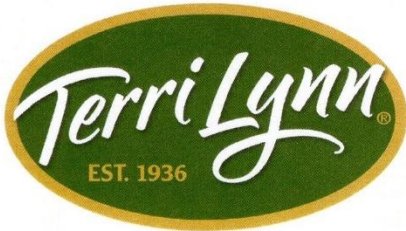
Where: 44 Chapel Road, Kenmore NY

Rain (downstairs) or Shine

Need Book Donations in GOOD Condition
NO Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, or Atlases



Contact Carol Obot or Sue Holway for more information.



Order Now For All of Your Summer Events!

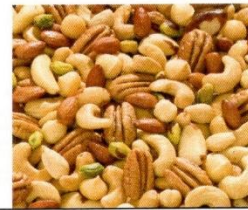
Terrilyn's premium nuts, decadent confections, savory snacks and tempting mixes are unlike anything you will find at your local grocery store. There is a range of 38 products to pick from.



Sweet & Salty Trail Mix



Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Caramels



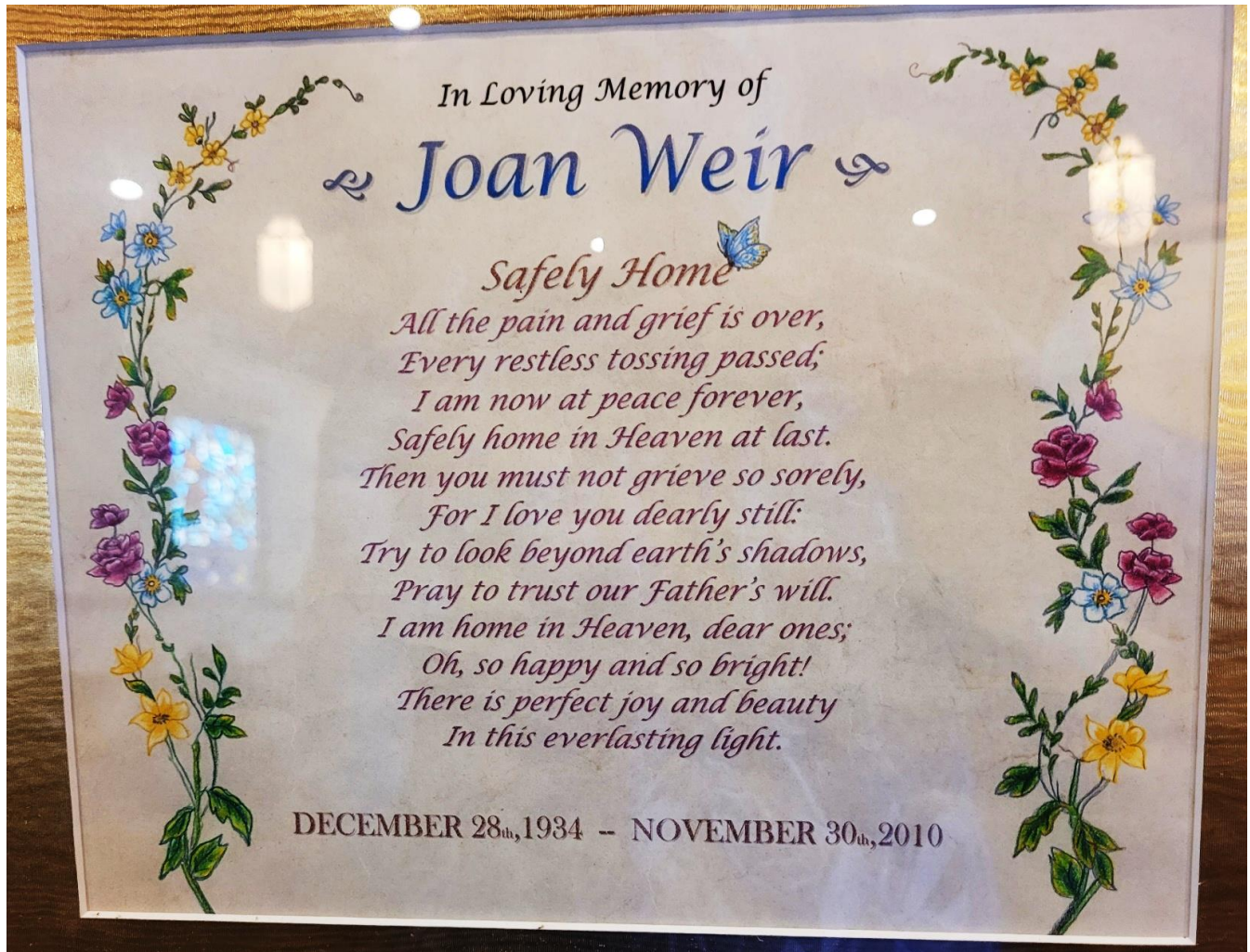
Deluxe Mix- Roasted & Salted

All profits are used to support local charities such as Ken - Ton Meals on Wheels, Local Church Food Pantries, Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Hour Ministries plus many others.

**Pilgrim Lutheran Church Terri Lynn's Webstore is
contactless, safe, and easy!!**

<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terri Lynn.com>

JUNE 25, 2023 - DEDICATION OF NEW ORGAN





A Voters Meeting was held on June 25th after the service. The Call Committee received information on 13 pastors for consideration and have chosen three to be interviewed (probably via Zoom). We HOPE to have a SPECIAL meeting to vote on the candidates on July 9th. NOTE: We will need AT LEAST ONE THIRD of Pilgrim voters present for this vote.

*** Please keep in mind that we may need to go through this process more than once if none of the first three accepts our call. ***

There are many jobs that Pastor Ben and Linda have been doing “behind the scenes”. They will provide a list to the church council, so we know what needs to be done. We need to take over those jobs – and BEFORE THEY LEAVE would be a good time!

We voted to hire a part-time church secretary. It would be 10 hours a week at \$15.00 per hour. That is \$150 per week, \$7,800 per year. The secretary will be responsible for typing, printing and folding the weekly bulletin, checking for phone messages, bring in and distribute mail, keep track of office supplies and ordering when needed. This will be a permanent position for any pastor we have.

It was noted that our giving has been DOWN this year. When we vote for a budget, we should be able to meet it. Don’t forget to use your envelopes and also make up for the weekends you were not at church. We also have the online feature on Pilgrim’s web site. Please keep in mind that we should be able to pay our pastor with an appropriate salary so he can support himself (and his family). This should also include things such as health insurance.

The elders will be in charge of getting a vacancy pastor when possible. We may also have some lay services as well.

The new VBS materials have been received. It will be the same format as last time and will be on the second Sunday of each month. It is scheduled to begin on July 9th.

Outdoor lights on the church will be replaced. (Thanks to Lee Trimmer for doing this.)

Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these capacities: hosting fellowship, counting, altar service, ushering and reading. Please approach someone on the church council.

The next REGULAR meeting will be held on September 17th. The meeting was adjourned, and we closed with the Lord’s Prayer.



Why do we give offerings each week?

1. To thank God for providing all our needs.
2. To fight against our love for money.
3. To strengthen our trust that God will continue providing for us.
4. To remind ourselves God is the true owner of all things.
5. To help those in physical and spiritual need.

Professor Peter Nafzger, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis



Go Online

<http://pilgrimkenmorelcms.org>

<https://www.lcms.org/search?q=tithing#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=tithing&gsc.sort=&gsc.page=1>



All 2021–2023 Mission Grants – PAID IN FULL!

1. [Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch](#) — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, \$81,680 PAID IN FULL
2. [Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses](#) — Spirit Warrior, Central Maine, \$95,000 PAID IN FULL
3. [Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa’s Children](#) — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
4. [Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life](#) — LCMS Life Ministry, \$92,000 PAID IN FULL
5. [Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach](#) — Lutheran Deaf Outreach, \$50,000: PAID IN FULL
6. [Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients](#) — Phil’s Friends, \$70,000 — PAID IN FULL
7. [Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia](#) — Lutheran Theological Seminary, Novosibirsk, Siberia, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
8. [Light of Christ in Eastern Europe](#) — Mission Central, \$56,000 PAID IN FULL
9. [Propelling the Gospel](#) — LAMP Ministry, Inc., \$65,000 PAID IN FULL
10. [Educating Pastors in Africa](#) — Mission Central, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
11. [Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion](#) — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
12. [Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania](#) — Mwadui Lutheran School and Community, \$68,182 PAID IN FULL
13. [Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia](#) — Lutheran Hour Ministries, \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
14. [Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People](#) — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL

15. [The Littlest and Least of These, Dallas, Texas](#) — St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, \$42,000 — PAID IN FULL
16. [Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp](#) — Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado, \$25,000 PAID IN FULL
17. [Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru](#) — La Mision Luterana del Peru, \$56,750 PAID IN FULL
18. [“Ends of Earth” Scholarships](#) — Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries, \$50,000 PAID IN FULL
19. [Sharing Jesus’ Love in India](#) — Lutheran Braille Workers, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
20. [Mission & Outreach to the Least of These](#) — Victory Lutheran Church, K. I. Sawyer Community, \$51,356: PARTIAL PAYMENT of \$34,000. Remainder reallocated*
21. [Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus](#) — Belize Mission Society, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL — *video update*
22. [Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone](#) — Lutheran Bible Translators, \$70,000 — PAID IN FULL
23. [Showing God’s Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico](#) — God Cares About You Mission, \$98,000 PAID IN FULL
24. [Reaching the Homebound with God’s Word](#) — Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. (DBA Worship Anew), \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
25. [Missionaries to America Project](#) — Mission Nation Publishing, \$88,000 PAID IN FULL
26. [Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho](#) — Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, \$100,000 PAID IN FULL
27. [Expanding God’s Love in Uganda](#) — LCMS Office of International Mission, Africa Region, \$92,000 PAID IN FULL
28. [Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach](#) — St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries, \$78,364 PAID IN FULL *Reallocated funds of \$8,156 paid to complete original proposal request.

*Additional reallocated funds of \$9,200 will roll-over to 2023–2025 Mission Grant total.



THREE NEW LHM LEARN COURSES FOCUS ON GIFTED FOR MORE

As a complement to Lutheran Hour Ministries' *Gifted for More* resources, **LHM Learn** released three short courses in May. Each 20-minute course zeroes in on a different aspect or step in the process of understanding our various gifts and living out those gifts in our lives to serve God and bless others.

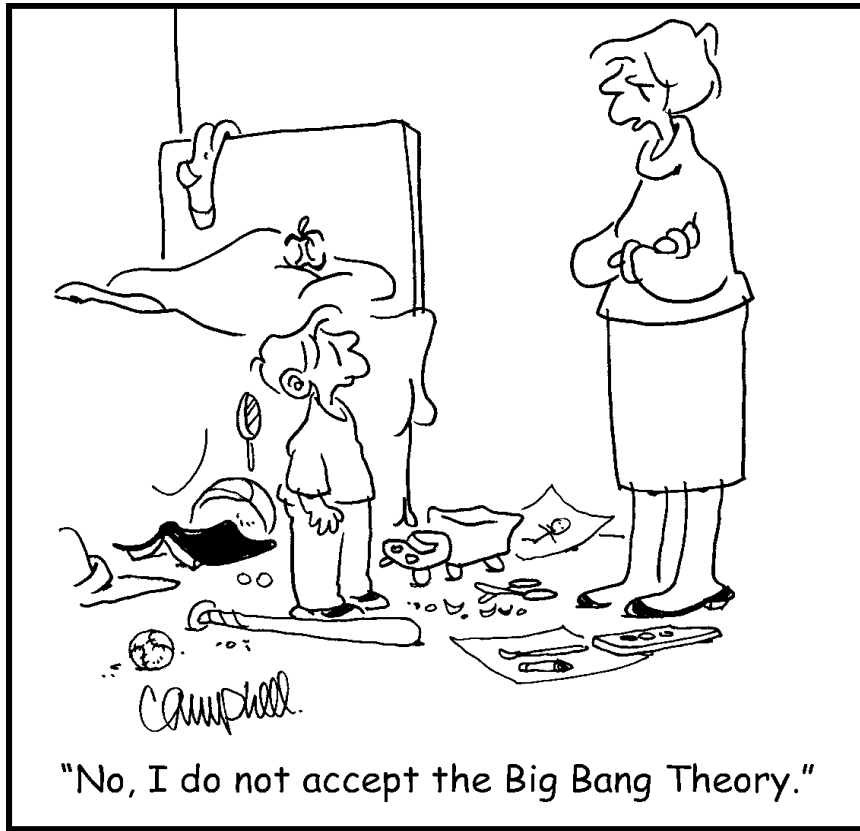
Course titles correspond to the *Gifted for More* approach of comprehending, developing, and sharing our God-given gifts. Course one, *Discover Your Gifts—The Challenge of Awareness*, encourages learners to dig deep and explore all the ways God has gifted them. Course two, *Grow Your Gifts—The Challenge of Intentionality*, urges learners to maximize their gifts through deliberate action. Course three, *Share Your Gifts—The Challenge of Generosity*, motivates learners to use their gifts in abundant ways.

Each course is centered on the belief that "everyone is a gift with gifts to share." We all have aptitudes, interests, and skill sets that God has richly blessed us with. It is these personal assets that make the body of Christ on earth so powerful, as we lovingly and compassionately express our gifts in thanks to God and in service to one another.

Each LHM Learn *Gifted for More* course includes content drawn from LHM's ongoing partnership with Barna Group. Video interviews with Barna researchers and study developers highlight key findings in the data. Scriptural references reinforce important points, and study questions challenge learners to consider the gifts they possess and how they can use them. Each course is practical and engaging, so learners can jump in and begin to discover, grow, and share their gifts.

Gifted for More is a comprehensive collection of resources that LHM has prepared in concert with Barna Group, a visionary research firm which has conducted more than two million interviews and done tens of thousands of studies. This work has produced an enormous database of spiritual indicators speaking to faith and culture, leadership and vocation, and the changing dynamics of how people live out their faith.

LHM Learn courses come in five FREE faith-strengthening categories: *Christian Foundations*, *Cultural Concepts*, *Everyday Insights*, *Outreach Essentials*, and *Spiritual Reflections*. Each is perfect for self-study, but there are small group discussion guides available for home or church use, too. Courses can be accessed on any digital device, making them portable for use anywhere. To learn more, visit lhm.org/learn.



Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZDGBOK
DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT
OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU
EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU
RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT _____

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS JULY 24TH.