



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

[www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org](http://www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org)

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**OCTOBER 2023**

PASTOR: Rev. Chris Wicher (Interim)

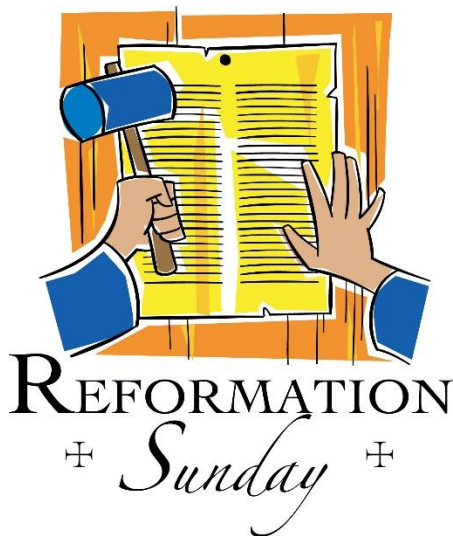
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

BIBLE STUDY: 9:00 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





Brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am Pastor Chris Wicher and I am serving as your Interim Pastor. Already it has been a pleasure being with you. You have been kind and welcoming to me and my wife, Bev. Thank you.

As your Interim Pastor I am working for you part-time, about ten hours per week. I cannot do everything a called full-time Pastor would do, but I am focusing on worship leadership, Bible Study, and visitation of your sick and home-bound.

Please keep me in your prayers as I most certainly will keep you in my prayers, especially as you are seeking God's guidance and direction in searching for your next Pastor. The Lord of the Church already has that man in mind, and He will guide Him to you in His perfect time. In the meantime, you can use this interim time for praying, patience-building, and trusting in the Lord. He has you in His good hands.

This might be of interest to you. Several years ago, I came across a little book that speaks well to change that comes in life. Even though change can be frustrating, it also gives us opportunities that are very good. You cannot avoid it. Like it or not, change does happen as we plod along through the years. The book is called "Who Moved My Cheese?" written by Spencer Johnson (\$10 on Amazon). It is a simple read in metaphor about responding to change in helpful and not so helpful ways.

Anyway, that book is my suggestion to you. It helped me look differently on how I view my contentment in life. I like it when life is predictable and peaceful. But what made life that way for me is not today what it was 5 or 10 years ago, and it is not what will be for me in another 5 or 10 years if God gives me those years. God is in my life and He is in your lives. He keeps moving us through life to His ultimate prize that awaits us in Christ Jesus.

Indeed, change does happen, but there is contentment in the Lord wherever we may find ourselves. The Lord is with us, so "seek the Lord while He may be found."

God's peace to you.

### Reformation Red

Reformation will be observed on October 28 and 29 at Pilgrim.

Reformation is the celebration of the foundation belief of Scripture that "we are justified by grace, through faith, and it is not of your doing, it is the gift of God, not because of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

This teaching of the Church was rediscovered by Martin Luther, the 16<sup>th</sup> century reformer, whose name is part of Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

**Since the color in the church that weekend is "red", let us all wear something "red" to worship that weekend.**

May God the Holy Spirit move us mightily to be Gospel-people proclaiming the love of God for all.

## All Saints Remembrance

November 4 and 5 is All Saint's weekend. This is our time in the church to give thanks to God for all who have gone before us in the Lord and now live with Him in heaven.

We will sing the familiar hymn "For All the Saints" that weekend.

Pastor Wicher would like to mention by name those in your lives who have died this year in a "Commemoration of the Faithful Departed" during the worship services that weekend.

If you would like for Pastor to include a loved-one or friend at that time, please forward his/her name to Pastor. You can forward names by:

- A paper note in church
- A text by cell phone, 716-951-0222
- An email note to [chriscwicher@gmail.com](mailto:chriscwicher@gmail.com)



## **Daily tasks**

When I awoke this morning, I asked, "How shall I live this day?" The answers were all around me:

The fan said, "Keep your cool."  
The ceiling said, "Aim high."  
The window said, "Look outside yourself."  
The clock said, "Every minute is precious."  
The calendar said, "Stay up to date."  
The door said, "Take advantage of opportunity."  
The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."  
—Unknown (adapted)



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

### OCTOBER 2023

WEEKEND OF	Sept 30/Oct 1	Oct 7/8	Oct 14/15	Oct 21/22	Oct 29/30
READER	Rhonda Mohr/ Eric Fellner	Ruth Whitmer/ Carolyn Alessi	D. Griebel/ Tim McGuan	Rhonda Mohr/ Dooley O'Rourke	D. Griebel/ Carolyn Alessi
USHER	Tegwanda Alford	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch	Jim Miller
COMMUNION ASSISTANT (Sat/Sun)	Dan Griebel/ George Alessi	Dave Porter/ Dooley O'Rourke	Rod Mohr/ Mike Wuerch	Dan Griebel/ Jim Hartz	Dave Porter/ Tyrone Bryant



We are looking for people interested in joining the choir. We will begin rehearsing Wednesday October 4th at 6:30pm. The plan is to meet each Wednesday for an hour in the church sanctuary by the piano, from 6:30-7:30pm. Please contact Ruth Whitmer for any questions: 716-803-2677.

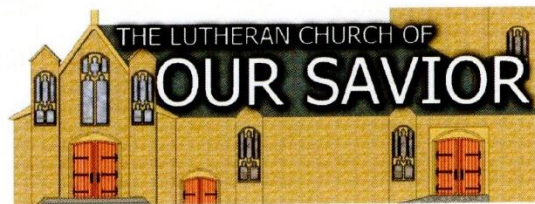


## 2023 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE

### Monthly Rotation

	OCTOBER
LEAD COUNTER	Dianne Wuerch
COUNTER	Sue Holway
COUNTER	Kathy Kornacki

**We still need a few more congregational members to help count offerings after Sunday Service on 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.  
All donation amounts are welcome.  
Please designate amount on your offering envelope.



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dianne Weurch	Oct. 2
Kathy Rodgers	Oct. 11
Tegwanda Alford	Oct. 15
Sue Holway	Oct. 18



Oct. 7	Mike & Dianne Wuerch
Oct. 10	Lee & Amber Trimmer



## God's helpers

God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."

—George Buttrick





## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

The next meeting of the Esther Circle will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at church. All women are invited. We are planning to include a study of Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus on His Mission" at upcoming meetings.

On Sept. 30/October 1, Pastor Chris will lead a service celebrating God's work through the LWML. We thank Pastor for arranging this. Some members will participate in the service.

On Oct. 7, several of our women will attend the LWML Zone meeting in Eden. We will be assembling sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief. If you wish to attend, contact Carol Obot by Oct. 2 and join us to carpool from church Saturday morning.

Please continue to save Dash's grocery receipts and used postage stamps. Remember to look at the Terry Lynn offerings that can be ordered online in preparation for holiday baking and gift-giving.

October is one of the most beautiful months in WNY. We thank our Creator as we enjoy the colorful hillsides, the beautiful mums, and the apples and pumpkins from the market.

Wishing you God's blessings -

Carol Obot and Sue Holway



## **He's everywhere**

A mother asked her little boy to please get the broom from the back porch. "But it's dark out there!" he protested.

"Don't be scared," Mom said. "Jesus is out there. He'll take care of you." When the child looked skeptical, his mother continued, "Jesus is everywhere. You'll be safe."

After a moment, the boy went to the back door and cracked it open. Peering into the dark, he called, "Jesus, if you're out there, will you please hand me the broom?"

## Message From Your Financial Secretary

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Dear Pilgrim Congregation, Family & Friends,

Please welcome Nazareth Lutheran members, family & friends to Pilgrim Lutheran!

It is a joyful time with both church families working together to becoming one. We are also blessed to have Pastor Chris Wicher, along with his wife Bev, to lead us until the Lord brings us our new Shepherd.

There will be a few things everyone will need to know so we can work together through the months ahead.

First, name tags on a lanyard have been placed in everyone's mailboxes. Please wear them so Pastor Chris, along with our Nazareth members, learn who we all are. I would advise they be left in your mailbox after the service/fellowship. They will be used again when a new Pastor answers our Call.

Second, new mailboxes will be assigned at the end of 2023. Amber Trimmer and I will be working on removing/adding names, then arranging them alphabetically.

**Please check your mailboxes weekly!!**

You DO get Portal of Prayer books plus offering statements and other mail.

Third, I will be distributing 2024 Offering Envelopes in December. Your mailbox and envelope number will most likely change.

Fourth, I print out your Offering Statements at the End of each Quarter then put them in your mailboxes unless otherwise directed. (March, June, September, December).

If you ever have any questions or concerns, you can reach me anytime.

God's Blessings,

Dianne Wuerch  
Financial Secretary  
[diannefeyeswuerch@gmail.com](mailto:diannefeyeswuerch@gmail.com)  
716-481-2599





A Voters Meeting was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> after the service. Rev. Derek Mathers was present as we were also going to vote on calling another pastor.

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Ben retired after serving Pilgrim for 30 years. A retirement luncheon was held after the service for Pastor Ben and Linda. We pray for God's blessings for the Eders in their retirement.

Pastor Chris Wicher has agreed to be Pilgrim's interim pastor as we go through the call process. We welcome him and his wife, Bev, who is a strong supporter of the LWML. We thank God for blessing Pilgrim with your service!

Several members of Nazareth Lutheran church (which has closed) have been attending services with us. We welcome you and thank you for wanting to join us in worship and service to Pilgrim. We look forward to getting to know each other.

Since the Tuesday Bible Class has been discontinued, we will only have a Bible Class on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. for now. (See the VBS Bible Class page for information on that class.)

The House and Grounds Committee reported that we have a new lawn mower, weed whacker and snowblower courtesy of Nazareth Lutheran. Thank you!

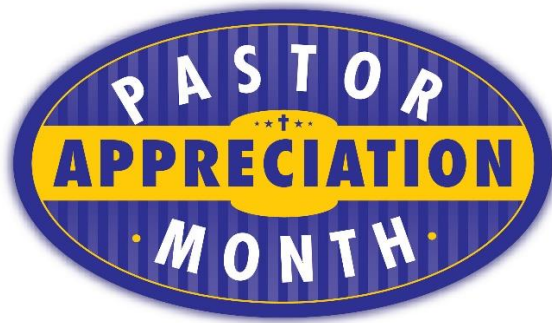
Amber Trimmer is Pilgrim's new Administrative Assistant. She is off to a fast start and is helping Pilgrim greatly in this transition period. Thank you, Amber!

If you are willing to help with ushering, reading, altar service and counting, please contact any member of the Church Council. (See the list in this issue.)

We also voted to call another pastor during this meeting. (Call Meetings will be on October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup> IF NEEDED.)

Our next regular voters meeting is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>. We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.





## Pastor appreciation

Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it's not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated.

Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him or her, the answer would likely be, "Pray for me."

St. Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him. To the church at Rome, he wrote, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

Encourage your pastor by assuring him or her of your prayers and love.

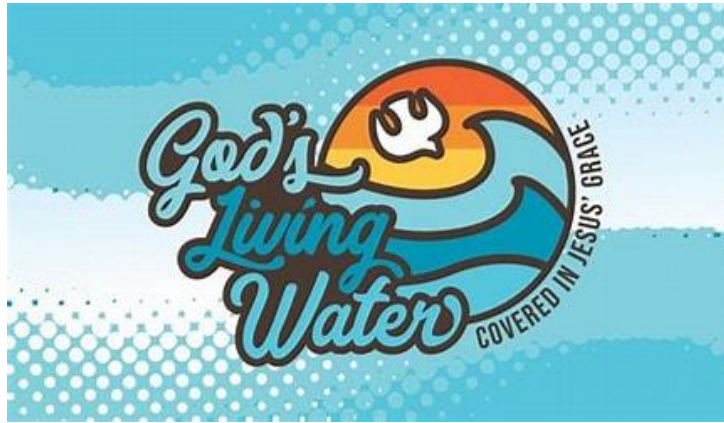
## Appreciate — and act

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God's work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church's ministry. "They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle," Barna writes. "They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers."

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. "They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands," Barna notes, "nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces."

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!



## God's Living Water October 2023

We welcome you to **God's Living Water** VBS on Sunday, October 8th. Our theme for that date will be "**Water From the Rock**" based on Exodus 17: 1-7, the biblical narrative of God giving His people water in the wilderness. Sunday school for adults and children will begin at 9:00 am, followed by our worship service celebrating the same theme. The children will share a song at worship. Fellowship will follow the service. We encourage everyone to read the devotions in God's Living Water, Section Two the week before, or after October 8th.

## Joy in the Word of God



Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—*The Table Talk of Martin Luther*



## We welcome all ladies of the congregation to the October 7th Buffalo Zone Fall Event!

The Buffalo Zone LWML will host our Fall Event on October 7 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3487 North Boston Road in Eden, NY. The event will take place from 9:00 am to noon. The guest speaker, Ann Werk, author and former principal of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Batavia will talk about **"Joy Restored"** based on Psalm 51. Ann will also have copies of her latest book available for 10.00 per copy. Our hands-on Mission Project for this event will be to assemble Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring sewing scissors to the event. If you have thread and pieces of fabric 3 yards in length and 44" wide you may donate them to the church or bring them to the event. Our Esther Circle will be providing material and thread for our ladies to assemble at the event. If you would like to attend, please contact Carol Obot or RSVP to Lisa Hoover [lisadq@rocketmail.com](mailto:lisadq@rocketmail.com) by **October 2nd**. If you would like to join our carpool to this event, please see Carol Obot, Sharon McGuan or Sue Holway. We hope to see you at the Fall Event!



### Starting a ripple effect

Shortly before his death, 80-year-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the money came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



## FAVORITE RECIPES TO BAKE, CREATE, AND ENJOY

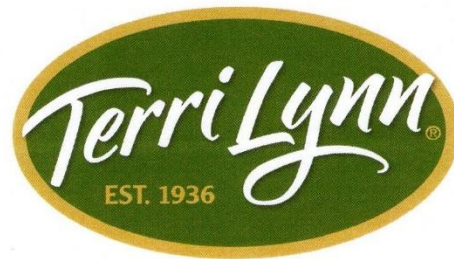
Terri Lynn's Signature nuts, snack mixes, and chocolates are delicious on their own; but they also make great ingredients for your homemade, tasty creations. Check out their recipes online and share them.

<https://www.terri Lynn.com/resources/recipes/pecan-rock-cookies>

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**PECAN ROCK COOKIES**  
USING  
FANCY PECAN PIECES



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. Please help us support them. Thank you!

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

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





## **FOR 2023**

**President – Mike Wuerch**

**Vice President – Sue Holway**

**Financial Secretary – Dianne Wuerch**

**Treasurer – Rhonda Mohr**

**Recording Secretary – Ruth Whitmer**

**Head Elder – George Alessi**

**Elders – Tyrone Bryant, Tim McGuan**



### **Total trust**

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

“God is God,” says Elliot. “Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to.”

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks, “Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person’s seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next.”



## **MAKE AN IMPACT—SEE THE IMPACT**



Every month...  
the Gospel message is shared through LHM resources and programs 768 million times.

Every month...  
through the work of the Holy Spirit at LHM, 60+ countries are hearing the Good News of the Gospel.

Every month...  
new recurring commitments from LHM supporters are made to further these efforts.

Today I am asking you to prayerfully consider joining LHM as one of these recurring monthly supporters of the Gospel mission.

God uses LHM and Christian believers just like you in miraculous ways to reach people with the Gospel. By becoming a Mission Monthly member, you play a crucial role in sustaining and expanding our programs and initiatives.

Your recurring gifts allow LHM to plan far ahead, provide us with a stable source of funding, and ensure that we can continue serving others by sharing the Good News of Jesus.

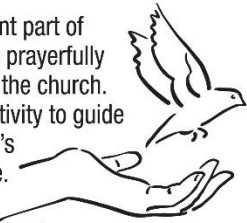
Every month...  
you can make an impact and see that impact as a Mission Monthly member.

[Join Mission Monthly today!](#)

In addition to your commitment as a Mission Monthly supporter, LHM wants to recognize the impact you are having through exclusive Mission Monthly content, including early access to impact stories from around the world, a special devotion from Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, and a discount code to be used on LHM's resources.

# MISSIONARY-MINDED PRAYER

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.



## What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet



## What you do:

1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.

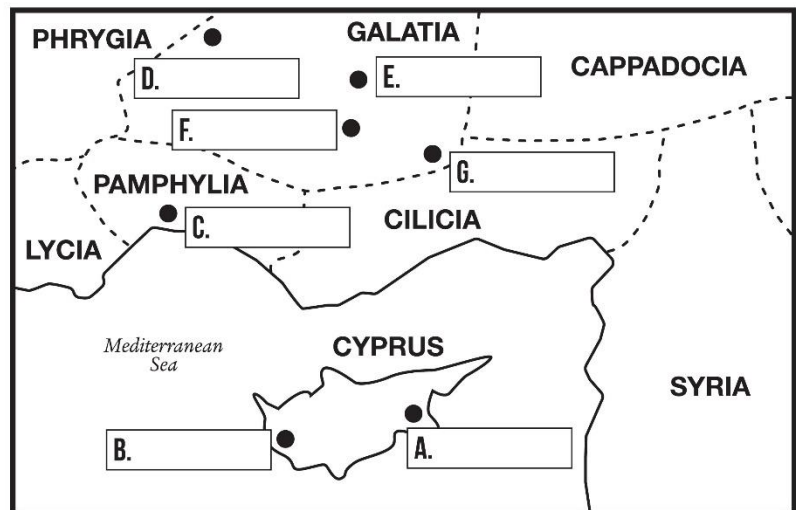
# PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

*Directions: From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.*



- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. SALAMIS (ACTS 13:5)  | E. ICONIUM (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. PAPHOS (ACTS 13:6)   | F. LYSTRA (ACTS 14:6)   |
| C. PERGA (ACTS 13:13)   | G. DERBE (ACTS 14:6)    |
| D. ANTIOCH (ACTS 13:14) |                         |



Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>.**