



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*

**APRIL 2024**

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

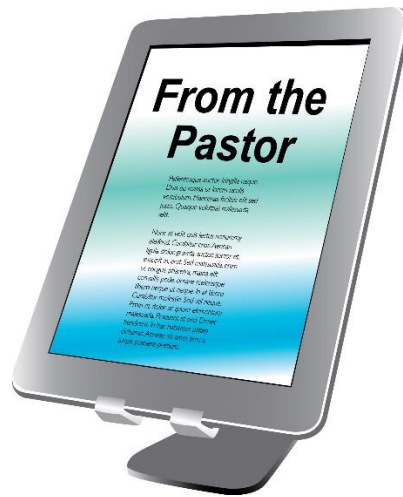
EDITOR: Mary Werth

BIBLE STUDY: 9:00 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





Why so catholic? This is a question that has been asked by many Lutherans and other protestant denominations over the last 500 years or so. This question comes especially when we compare our practices and traditions with the Catholic church, which are either the same or similar.

When it comes to baptism for instance we agree on every point, that through it God makes us His children, gives salvation, the forgiveness of sins, gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, makes us a new creation, and should be given to a new born.

Now on something like communion we are close, but not quite, we both believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament, that it brings the forgiveness of sins, and restores us to our baptismal promises, but they believe something called transubstantiation, which means that due to the character of the priest, he can turn the bread into the body of Christ and the wine into the blood of Christ. Again, close but not quite the same.

We don't practice our traditions because the Catholics do it, but because they either come from Scripture or they point to something from Scripture. This though hasn't stopped us from trying to distance ourselves from them. Take the Nicene Creed for instance, we have the phrase "In one holy Christian and apostolic Church" whereas the original text is "In one holy catholic and apostolic Church." Notice how the "c" is lower case, that is because the original Greek and Latin texts have used a word that meant universal Christianity. It is not a reference to the Roman Catholic Church which uses a "C." Notice though, on Trinity Sunday in June, we will say the word "catholic" in the Athanasian Creed.

It's not about being close to the Catholics, but it's about confessing the "catholic" or Christian faith as handed down to us by the Lord through His Apostles and our ancestors in the Faith.



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### APRIL 2024

WEEKEND OF	Apr. 6/7	Apr. 13/14	Apr. 20/21	Apr. 27/28	
<b>READER (Sat/Sun)</b>	Rhonda Mohr/Dooley O'Rourke	Doreen Griebel/Carolyn Alessi	Rhonda Mohr/Tyrone Bryant	Doreen Griebel/Dianne Wuerch	
<b>USHER</b>	Mike Wuerch	Jim Miller	Melody Keef	Tegwanda Alford	
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT (Sun only)</b>	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch	Tyrone Bryant	

### The joy of Jesus



The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



## Birthdays This Month

Eric Alessi	Apr. 15
Melody Keef	Apr. 20
Kevin Rodgers	Apr. 25



### TRIAL QUESTIONS

Reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal, the following are 22 questions actually asked of witnesses by attorneys during trials and, in certain cases, the responses given by insightful witnesses:

“Were you present when your picture was taken?”

“Were you alone or by yourself?”

“How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?”

Q: “You say the stairs went down to the basement?”

A: “Yes.”

Q: “And these stairs, did they go up also?”

Q: “Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?”

A: “No, this is how I dress when I go to work.”

Q: “All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?”

A: “Oral.”



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Our next meeting is Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm. at the church. All ladies of Pilgrim are welcome. After a brief business meeting, we will discuss Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus on His Mission". We will be discussing chapters 8, 9 and 10. These chapters help us remember what Jesus came to announce, display, and open up to all who would receive the Kingdom of God and what our mission is to this glorious kingdom! Come and join the discussion.

**REMINDER:** Dash's receipts are given to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan and mites (loose change) to Karen Smith or leave at the back table in the sanctuary.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Esther Circle will be having a brunch for all the ladies of Pilgrim to attend at the church on Saturday, June 1st. "Ladies First" singing group will be the entertainment. More information will be in the May newsletter.

**Christ Has Risen! He Has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

**Carol Obot**



### **Blessed are you**

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. "But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard [anyone] demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere."

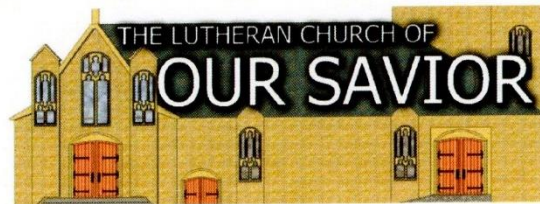
Jesus' Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once "viewed as a mandate for the faithful." Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a "liberating directive." Berger writes, "For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis. It is not enough to read it or hear it. Jesus intends it to be how we live."



**2024 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE**  
**Weekly Rotation**

Date	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	
Lead Counter	Jim Hartz	Sue Holway	Dianne Wuerch	Carolyn Alessi	
Counter	Ruth Whitmer	Janice Vogel	Kathy Kornacki	Kathy Farkas	

If you are unable to count the date you are assigned, please let Dianne Wuerch know.



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.



The April VBS Lesson will be number 7, *Lydia Hears God's Word*. If you are reading the devotions in the God's Living Water booklets, please read Week 7, instead of Week 6, to prepare for April's VBS Sunday.

Lydia's life was transformed by the Gospel; and this lesson will help us see that God's Living Word transforms our lives today, causing us to become Jesus' disciples, working the Father's will.

We welcome everyone to join us for VBS Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 am for adult and children's classes. (Kids come ready to sing, craft and hear about how much Jesus loves you.) Worship service is at 10:30 and Fellowship will follow. We look forward to seeing you at VBS!



## T Shirts for South Sudan

Do you have too many gently used Tee Shirts in your drawers and closets? If so, please consider donating them to people in the war-torn village of Abyei, South Sudan. We are looking for clean Tee Shirts in all sizes.

Please make sure the shirts DO NOT have flags, religious symbols, or political statements on them (so as not to attract attention to people living in this war-torn region). Also, please do not donate **lightweight** white Tee Shirts (any white lightweight material can attract human traffickers).

We will collect the shirts through the month of May. Plastic tubs will be placed in the back of the sanctuary to collect the shirts. Thank you for sharing with the people of Abyei!

## **\*\*\* VOTERS MEETING \*\*\***

A Voters Meeting was held after the service on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Council has been busy working with Pastor Walsh and Margaret with their integration into the church and the Buffalo area. Everything is moving along well.

Two different Bible Studies are in progress: Sundays at 9 am and Tuesdays at 6 pm. Pastor Walsh has some intriguing and fresh insights into the Word of God, and we encourage everyone to take part in these studies.

We accepted three new members: Ernie Grosser and Steve and Crystal Gempko. Welcome to your new church family!

We would like to have the children's Sunday School start up again. Please contact Pastor Walsh or someone on the Council if you would like more information.

Please prayerfully consider helping with ushering, reading, altar help, and counting. Then talk to someone on the Council or Pastor Walsh and let them know how you would like to serve.

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE:** In 2025, Pilgrim will need three NEW officers on the Council: President, Secretary and Financial Secretary. The current members have served 2 terms (4 years) and cannot serve in these positions next year, as is written in Pilgrim's Constitution. Please prayerfully consider serving on the Council.

Dan Griebel was voted in as our third Elder. The others are Tim McGuan and Head Elder Tyrone Bryant. (See Elders article in this issue.)

The Pilgrim Active Laymen (PALs) is up and running. Check the calendar to see when and where they will meet.

The elevator has been working fine for the last month, so hopefully we will not have to call for repairs as often. The outside lights are now automatic, so they come on at dusk and turn off in the morning. Thanks to Lee Trimmer for doing this!

We are still in the process of getting an AED for Pilgrim and the training for it and CPR as well.

We are forming an Events Committee. If anyone is interested, please see Amber Trimmer. An objective statement will be formed during the first meeting. Her personal goal is to bring back some previous events we held and maybe some new ones with a focus on outreach and hopefully growth for our church. If you are NOT interested in joining BUT have some ideas, please reach out to her directly and it will be discussed during the committee meetings.

Sharon McGuan and Kathy Kornacki are looking for a 3rd person to help pickup Gracie Termini for church. This requires a 2-to-3-month process to get approved and then just picking her up. Please see one of them if interested in helping. Our next meeting will be on June 9<sup>th</sup> (Mike Wuerch's birthday!). We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.





**Elder's Report**  
**Pilgrim Lutheran Church**  
**March 17, 2024**

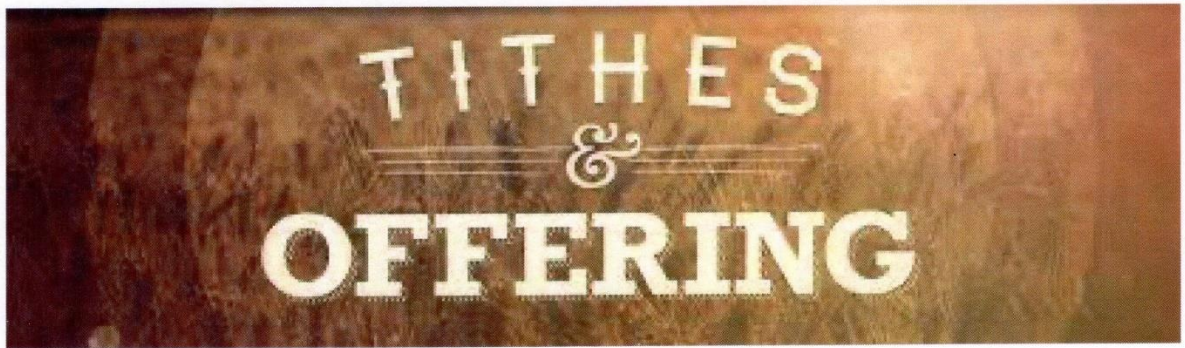
On March 12, 2024, Head Elder Tyrone Bryant, Tim McGuan, and Pastor Walsh met for our monthly elder's meeting. We decided to present the following at the March 17<sup>th</sup> Voters' Meeting:

- Conduct a vote for a third elder: Dan Griebel was nominated to serve. Dan agreed to serve. The motion to receive Dan's nomination was made, received a second and Dan was unanimously elected. Thank you, Dan, and may the Lord bless your service to His glory!
- Elders contact information is provided below.
  - Tyrone Bryant - (716) 544-8983 - [ceionya@gmail.com](mailto:ceionya@gmail.com)
  - Tim McGuan - (716) 418-5484 - [buckthorn9696@gmail.com](mailto:buckthorn9696@gmail.com)
  - Dan Griebel - (716) 449-0755 - [griebedm@gmail.com](mailto:griebedm@gmail.com)

If you need to speak to an elder, please do not hesitate to call any one of us.

- Elder's duties as stated in the church constitution were distributed at the meeting. If you did not receive a copy, there are additional copies on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary.
- Calling all Ushers, Readers, and Sunday Communion Assistants!! If you wish to serve, or have been serving as an usher, reader, or communion assistant, **please sign up for the dates you wish to serve from May 1<sup>st</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a little different.** We hope that if you sign up for a Sunday you intend to be in town, we will have less substitutions. If no one signs up for a Sunday, we will assign members who have volunteered in the past to fill the unfilled dates. The list of worship assistants will be published in the Pilgrims' Progress newsletter monthly and posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you.  
The Elders



Your Weekly/ Monthly Gifts/Offerings are very personal. There is no minimum (or maximum) gift and Pilgrim Lutheran Church does not place requirements or expectations on any of our members' giving.

What is taught throughout the Old and New Testaments encourages us to give a percentage of what we receive. Most frequently it is taught as a "tithe," which means 10%.

Begin by committing to regular giving, such as weekly or monthly. Both can be done at our Saturday and Sunday Services.

Then set the goal to grow in your generosity. Perhaps start with 2 or 3% for one year. Then as your faith grows, grow your giving by 1% per year.

### Offering Prayer

Father, As we lay before you our financial offering, we give you all that we are and everything that you have entrusted to us. Come bless these gifts for the sake of your Kingdom and glory.  
Amen.



## You are Invited to An LWML Buffalo Spring Zone Event!

The LWML Buffalo Zone invites you to a Spring Event on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Clarence. The ladies of Holy Cross will be hosting us, and the event will include lunch. The program will feature Sue Stege, Director of Christian Education and Christian Speaker from First Trinity Lutheran on Niagara Falls Boulevard. Registration is \$10.00 for the day's event, morning refreshments, and lunch. Please see Carol Obot to RSVP before April 26th.



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/fruit-and-nut-protein-bars>



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://pilgrimesthercircle.terri Lynn.com>

## PUPPET SHOWS SHARE GOD'S LOVE IN CAMBODIA



Cambodia's population is extraordinarily young, with 90 percent of Cambodians younger than age 55 and half of the population being younger than 25. Working with pastors and principals, one way that **LHM—Cambodia** reaches the youth population is by hosting puppet shows in local schools. They also bring a supply of various storybooks to each event, so the kids can take the Good News home with them, too.

As children grow older, the LHM—Cambodia staff coordinates soccer competitions, Bible study groups, music concerts, and other events to stay connected and works with pastors and other Christian leaders to maintain ongoing relationships.

In addition to sharing God's Word with children through these puppet shows, LHM staff also reaches school administrators and teachers. Sophany is the vice principal at a school where a recent puppet show shared the story about the Prodigal Son. After the show, staff members summarized the story and emphasized key messages such as how God made heaven and earth; we are all children of God but are lost; God sent His only Son to die on our behalf; and whoever believes in His Name will become His forgiven children.

Sophany was raised in a non-Christian religion but was intrigued by the message. She was uplifted to hear that God loves us dearly and asked the staff members to stay in contact, so she could learn more about Jesus. We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to work in her heart so that she and her family members can learn more about the Christian faith.

# Mobile Kitchen

Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S.

## About This Mission Grant

Forged by Fire Services strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. They pray with those in need and offer resources such as devotionals and Bibles.

This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. Over 130,000 meals have been served in the Gulf Coast region. The mobile kitchen will benefit smaller communities in need that are often overlooked by larger organizations. When serving, Forged by Fire Services strives to connect local LCMS congregations within the communities and shares the mercy and grace of Christ, one plate of food at a time.



Danny Hall serving in DeRidder Louisiana after Hurricane Laura



Our Forged by Fire team serving the community of Houma and the saints of Grace Lutheran following Hurricane Ida



Volunteers by the cars praying with those who have received food at Open Arms Lutheran Church in Slidell following Hurricane Ida

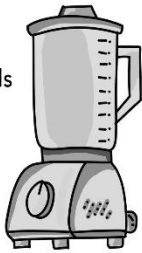
SOMETHING  
OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

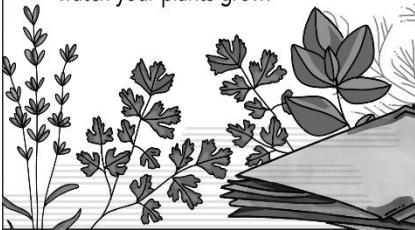
**What you need:**

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



**What you do:**

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



# PUZZLE

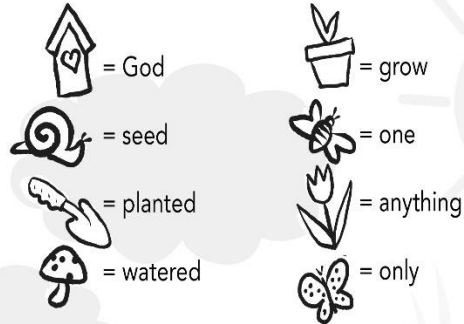


## PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY



I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, Apollos \_\_\_\_\_ it,

but \_\_\_\_\_ has been making it \_\_\_\_\_.

So neither the \_\_\_\_\_ who plants nor the

\_\_\_\_\_ who waters is \_\_\_\_\_,

but \_\_\_\_\_, who makes things \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY  
NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>**