



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

FEBRUARY 2024

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

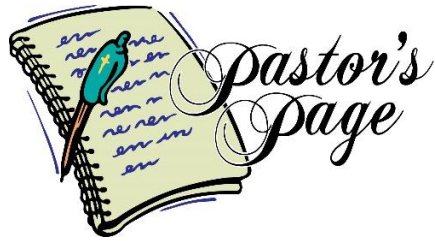
EDITOR: Mary Werth

BIBLE STUDY: 9:00 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





My friend Pastor George Fields doing a house blessing for a congregant.

Greetings in Christ:

Even though we are a month into Epiphany and Lent starts February 14th, it is not too late to participate in new Epiphany traditions. Each year, a family gathers to bless their home, chalking the year and the initial C, M, and B onto their lintel or just on the top of their front door like this: 20 + C + M + B + 24 "C M B" likely stands for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat:" may Christ bless this house – though many claim the initials stand for the legendary names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Baltasar. The numbers indicate the year and the + signs are, of course, a symbol of the cross of Christ. The chalking of the door is first an invitation for Christ to be present in our hearts and homes. It also stands as a reminder to us that our home is a place of refuge and blessing. As the wisemen entered the home of Jesus and found welcome, so should all who enter our homes (including ourselves) find Jesus. Our homes are a haven and a space to know and be known by Christ.

But even if you choose not to receive a house blessing during the Epiphany, you can receive a blessing at any time, especially if you have moved into a new home. In doing so you are commending your home to Christ and asking for his guidance and protection from the evil one. There is a short order of service that is used that walks through every room of the house with a prayer and blessing. I have done several housing blessings over the last six and half years and there is a certain comfort in hearing those prayers and knowing that the Lord is watching over your house.

If you would like a house blessing, please feel free to contact me at (585) 747-1507.

As you move through Epiphany to Lent it is my prayer that the Lord blesses and keeps you. Amen

Rev. David J. Walsh



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

FEBRUARY 2024

WEEKEND OF	Feb. 3,4	Feb. 10/11	Feb. 17/18	Feb. 24/25
READER	Rhonda Mohr/Eric Fellner	Ruth Whitmer/Jim Hartz	Doreen Griebel/Tim McGuan	Rhonda Mohr/Dooley O'Rourke
USHER	Tegwanda Alford	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch
COMMUNION ASSISTANT (Sat/Sun)	Rod Mohr/Jim Hartz	Dooley O'Rourke/Mike Wuerch	Rod Mohr/George Alessi	Jim Hartz/Tyrone Bryant

Open invitation

Come, sinners, to the gospel feast,
 Let every soul be Jesus' guest;
 Ye need not be one left behind,
 For God hath bidden all humankind.

Sent by my Lord, on you I call;
 The invitation is to all:
 Come, all the world; come, sinner, thou!
 All things in Christ are ready now.

Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed,
 Ye restless wanderers after rest,
 Ye poor, and maimed, and halt, and blind,
 In Christ a hearty welcome find.

—Charles Wesley (18th century)

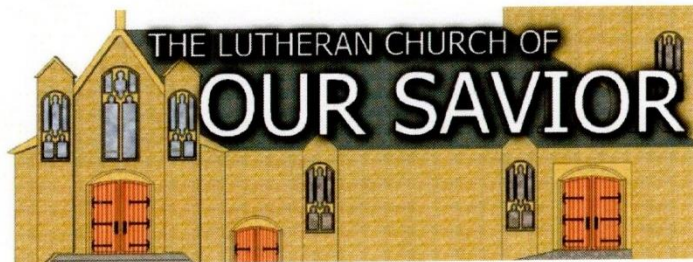


SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE

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

Date	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Lead Counter	Carolyn Alessi	Mike Wuerch	Dianne Wuerch	Jim Hartz
Counter	Janice Vogel	Kathy Farkas	Kathy Kornacki	Ruth Whitmer

A Master Schedule for the months February to June will be posted on board in the back of church.



Our Savior Lutheran | 26 Brunswick Blvd Buffalo 14208

We are still collecting donations to send monthly.
All donation amounts are welcome.
Please designate amount on your offering envelope.

BIRTHDAYS



Kathy Kornacki

Feb. 8

Grace Termini

Feb. 8

Kathy Farkas

Feb. 10

Jack Hambridge*

Feb. 18

Colvina Colvin

Feb. 25



*** Jack Hambridge will turn 95. ***





ESTHER CIRCLE

Our next meeting is on Monday, February 12th, at 12:30 pm at church. We will be finalizing the LWML Buffalo Zone Event on 2/24, 9 am to noon at Pilgrim. Please refer to the flyer for more information. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. Please remember to bring in nonperishable food items for the zone churches' shut ins and cans of soup for "Hearts for the Homeless Souper Bowl Drive." There are bins at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you. After a brief business meeting, we will continue to discuss chapters 2 and 3 of the book, "Joining Jesus on His Mission, How to be an Everyday Missionary" by Greg Finke.

REMINDERS: Volunteers are always welcome to host fellowship time after the Sunday service. There is a signup sheet on the board. Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan; mites (loose change) to Karen Smith. These efforts support various mission projects. Your support is appreciated!

February has Valentine's Day and the start of Lent. Let us reflect on the LOVE of Jesus for us and the journey He took to the Cross for our salvation! PRAISE GOD!

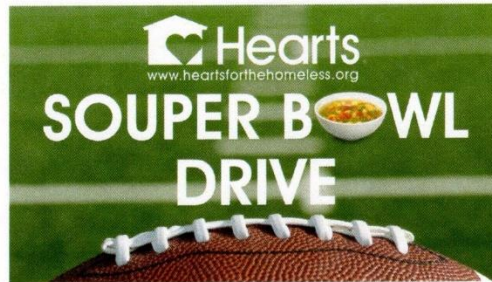
Carol Obot



Lent begins in February and the 5th VBS lesson celebrated on February 11th will focus on a story from Holy Week, Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet from John 13: 1-20. The theme of the lesson is "Jesus washes away the sins of the world." Jesus, the Son of God, wraps a towel around his waist and washes His disciples' feet, but His service to them extends farther, all the way to the cross. We welcome you to come to VBS Sunday and reflect on God's tremendous gift of love to us.

Both the children's and adult classes begin at 9:00 am. Pastor Walsh will lead the adult class and Carol Obot will teach the children's class. The children's class will include a lesson, songs, and hands-on activities. Worship is at 10:00 followed by the Fellowship Hour.

Esther Circle is Supporting



Hearts' **Souper Bowl Drive** is a way to work together to fight hunger in our community leading up to the Super Bowl football game on Sunday, February 11, 2024.

Donate Soup

Individual cans or cases of soup can be dropped off at Pilgrim Lutheran Church.
A tote will be in the back of church.

We cannot accept expired food or open containers

Shop Hearts Wish List



Scan the QR code
to donate online
through our
Amazon Wish List.



Choose from a variety of soups on our Amazon Wish List. During check out, choose Hearts for the Homeless® and your donation will be shipped directly to us.

Your impact changes lives when you huddle up to participate in Hearts' first Souper Bowl Drive and help lead us to victory. Now, more than ever, our community needs our help. In 2023, homelessness was up by 35 percent in Erie County — the largest single increase in over a decade.

COLLECTING UP TO AND INCLUDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

February Event for LWML

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

44 Chapel Road

Kenmore, New York 14217

February 24, 2024

9:00am - Noon



Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Devotions

In service project:

Making beaded bracelets for homebound.

Registration fee: \$5.00

RSVP: Sharon McGuan 716-803-3767 salmcg23@gmail.com

(Please RSVP by February 17th or sooner so that supplies can be purchased)

Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

May all enjoy a Blessed and Happy New Year as we look forward to 2024 events for our Buffalo Zone and Eastern District LWML.

Please consider making this one of the biggest attended events as we remember all those who are homebound by making for their enjoyment these easy to assemble bracelets. The colors used have meaning and it is hoped that the recipients knowing the meanings of these colors will help them through times of aloneness. Area churches are giving us lists of their home bound members. Now we just need you to help make as many as possible while enjoying the company of fellow Christian women working together to show love to one another and to strangers! **God is Love!!!!**

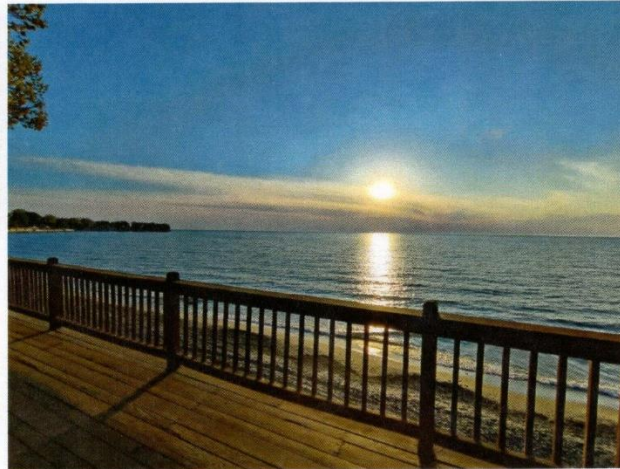
Donations of canned goods or dry goods will also be used for our shut-ins.



SALVATION BRACELET		
—Knot	God planned you	Col 1:16
● Black	Sin	Romans 3:23
● Red	Christ's Blood	Romans-5:8
● White	Forgiven	Isaiah 1:18
● Blue	Baptism	Acts 2:41
● Green	Growth	2 Peter 3:18
—Knot	No separation	John 10:28
● Gold	Eternal Life	John 3:16

Esther Circle Outreach 2024 – Friends of Pioneer

PIONEER ON THE LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER



Pioneer on the lake is a premier Christian camp and retreat center on the beautiful shores of Lake Erie in Angola, NY. We are dedicated to offering you a unique experience in the beauty of God's creation where you can meet with God, grow in your relationship to others and leave refreshed and prepared to serve.

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith ..."

Hebrews 12:2

PIONEER ON THE LAKE

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

9324 Lake Shore Road, Angola, NY 14006

office@pioneeronthelake.com

716-383-6157

Come Serve with Us!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HOUSE & GROUNDS COMMITTEE - Monthly or as Needed

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT: MIKE WUERCH, JIM HARTZ, CAROLYN ALESSI

Housecleaning

1. Sweeping & Vacuuming the Church & Nursery
2. Dusting
3. Empty Trash & Take out to Tote... Church, Nursery, Kitchen, Bathroom
4. Sweep & Wash Floors Kitchen, Bathrooms, Fellowship Hall
5. Wipe/Dust Pews & Nursery
6. Wash Floors in Kitchen, Bathrooms, Fellowship Hall
7. Clean Toilets & Sinks (Check Toilet Paper, Hand Soap, Paper Towels)
8. Take Inventory of Kitchen, Cleaning Supplies

USHERS - Saturday / Sunday - ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT TYRONE BRYANT

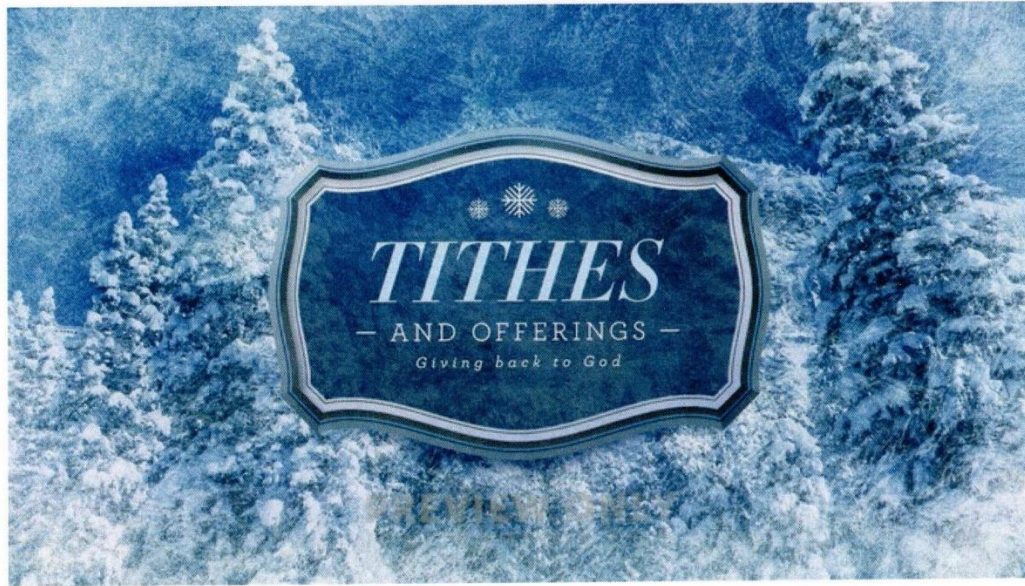
READERS - Saturday / Sunday - ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT TYRONE BRYANT

ALTAR GUILD - Saturday / Sunday - ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT MARY WERTH OR SUE HOLWAY

VBS/SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday - ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT SHARON MCGUAN OR CAROL OBOT

CHOIR - Sunday - ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT RUTH WHITMER

Sign-up sheets are on church bulletin board or contact the person(s) listed.



In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the Bible says, "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."

Tithe.ly

Tithe.ly now serves over 37,000 churches worldwide. Our core mission has always remained the same: To serve the Church and advance the Kingdom of God with simple, effective, and affordable church technology.

Tithe.ly is made up of a diverse, passionate, and fully remote team of nearly 200 people dedicated to empowering the local church with the technology it needs to fulfill its mission.

Download the App to get started.

We also have a link on Pilgrim Lutheran's website. <http://pilgrimkenmorelcms.org>
Click on the **Give** button.

Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment

Lutheran Braille Workers

About This Mission Grant

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. There are millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. They seek to strengthen their Christian faith while coping with isolation and dealing with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials.

This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired. Because LBW works with every Christian denomination, these materials would be available for outreach and evangelism at no cost to those who are blind or visually impaired regardless of faith or belief.



Church Worker and professional musician Brooke Pernice reading a devotional in Braille alongside her guitar. Having been Blind since birth, growing up in the church, and having earned her Master's Degree in church music, Brooke knows firsthand the challenges in finding rich, theologically sound, and Scripturally-based Christian resources in Braille and Large Print. Brooke's face reflects her experience of feeling God's love directly in her heart by reading the Scriptures with her fingertips!



Group of volunteers who assembled "Hymns for Advent and Christmas" in Large Print materials and some of the recipients of these materials together! Collections of hymns are extremely popular at senior care facilities as they are often the songs everybody knows. One facility increased their chapel attendance from 10 people a morning to over 60 people simply by bringing in "Favorite Hymns" in Large Print which the men and women were finally able to read in order to sing along.



Recipient in Nigeria of a Large Print Bible. This was the first Bible she had ever received that she could read since she did not know Braille and still had limited vision! This lady was so moved and overwhelmed by the gift of a Large Print Bible, she soon after began walking between villages and sharing this news with others. She personally led over two dozen individuals back to this facility so they too could receive the Word of God in a format they could understand!



LHM LEARN: NEW PLATFORM, EASIER LEARNING EXPERIENCE

LHM Learn, LHM's online resource for Bible-based courses, provides learners with courses to help strengthen their faith and empower their outreach. In October, LHM Learn transitioned to a new platform: Reach360. The new system gives users "a sleeker, simpler, more mobile-friendly experience. They will appreciate the shorter and easier registration process along with enhanced tools to search for and find courses in the library," said Chris Macky, instructional designer for LHM.

"When users log in to the new platform at lhm.org/learn (same web address as before), they will notice that their 'Learn' page clearly shows the courses that are in progress along with those they have completed. They can pick up right where they left off or find a new course in the Learning Library. This new library gives users several options to sort courses and filter searches. If a user is logging in for the first time, the best place to start is by viewing the micro-learning course called, 'Orientation to LHM Learn,'" Macky said.

For those who already use LHM Learn, all its original courses have been transferred to the new platform, along with additional options like micro-learning courses and learning paths. Micro-learning courses are short, bite-sized courses that can be completed in less than ten minutes.

"The best part of this new platform is its mobile-friendly design. Many people access learning content on their phones or tablets in addition to their computers and laptops. This new platform provides a clear appearance and easy navigation on any size device. And, of course, access is always totally free!" Macky said.

LHM Learn offers courses in five categories centered on a Called-Equipped-Sent paradigm. Designed for individual, self-paced learning, courses feature Scripture-based lessons, detailed graphics, video and audio segments, discussion questions, and prompts for reflection. Categories are **Christian Foundations** (basics of Christianity from biblical, theological, and historical perspectives); **Cultural Concepts** (understanding the different demographics, cultures, and religions in our world today); **Everyday Insights** (thoughts about the good and bad that life throws our way); **Outreach Essentials** (personal evangelism and tools to reach others with the Gospel); and **Spiritual Reflections** (devotional thoughts meant to strengthen and encourage). To begin your learning, go to lhm.org/learn.

As a complement to Lutheran Hour Ministries' *Gifted for More* resources, LHM Learn recently released three short courses related to the topic. 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.



Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	.	
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER
IS FEBRUARY 22ND.**