



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

JANUARY 2024

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

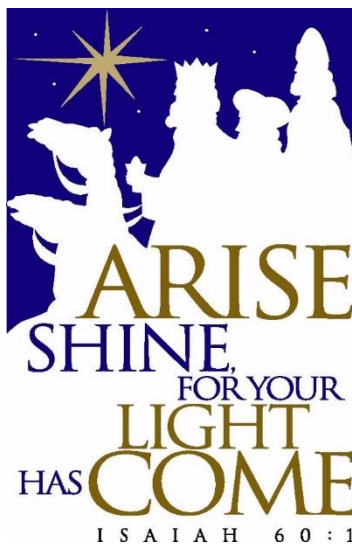
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

BIBLE STUDY: 9:00 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



INSTALLATION OF PASTOR DAVID J. WALSH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023



First row from left to right
Matthew Schletter (St. Paul, Fredonia)
Pastor Walsh
Bishop Jamison Hardy (English District)

Second row from left to right:
Chris Wicher (Pilgrim Vacancy Pastor)
Carl Schmidt (Retired)
Ben Eder (Retired)
Javiar Florez (LaSanta Cruz, Kenmore)

Back row from left to right:
Michael Doebler (Immanuel, Tonawanda)
Michael Taylor (Holy Trinity, Albion, PA) - wearing glasses
Alex Knowles (St. John, Angola)
Jeff Nickel (Holy Cross, Clarence)
Chuck Whited (First Trinity, Tonawanda)
Jason Christ (First Trinity, Tonawanda)
Rako Zech (St. Paul, Clarence Center)

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

JANUARY 2024

WEEKEND OF	Jan. 6/7	Jan. 13/14	Jan. 20/21	Jan. 27/28	
READERS	Rhonda Mohr/Dianne Wuerch	Rhonda Mohr/Tyrone Bryant	Doreen Griebel/Mary Werth	Rhonda Mohr/Kathy Farkas	
USHER	Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch	Jim Miller	Melody Keef	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Rod Mohr/Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz/George Alessi	Dan Griebel/Tyrone Bryant	Rod Mohr/Eric Fellner	



Our source of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City



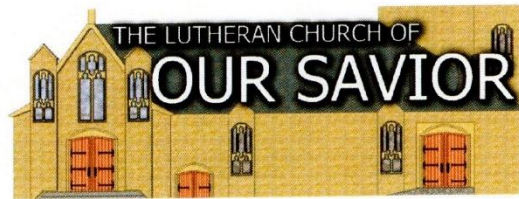
Beginning 2024 Counters will be on a Weekly Rotation

SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE

Date	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Lead Counter	Carolyn A.	Mike W.	Dianne W.	Jim H.
Counter	Ruth W.	Kathy K.	Dolores Z.	Mike W.
Counter				

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 & Mike Wuerch, Jim Hartz**



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.**



Amber Trimmer

Jan. 9

(If you would like your birthday and/or wedding anniversary in the newsletter, please contact Mary Werth by phone at 716-534-6922 or email: madragon99@yahoo.com. You can also leave a note in my mailbox. Thank you.)



CHURCH MAILBOXES

Just a friendly reminder to check and empty your church mailbox often. You never know what surprises it may hold!



Everybody should pay his taxes with a smile. I tried it, but they wanted cash.

Eiffel Tower: the Empire State Building after taxes.

Rumors are that this year's income tax forms will contain only three questions: How much money have you? Where is it? How soon can we get it?



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our next meeting is Monday, January 8th, at 12:30 pm at the church. All the women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. We will be discussing plans for hosting the LWML Buffalo Zone winter event at our church on February 24th, 9 am. - noon. Please refer to the separate article in this newsletter. After our business meeting, we will begin to discuss chapters 1-3 of the book Joining Jesus on His Mission, How to Be an Everyday Missionary, by Greg Finke.

REMINDER: Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps trimmed with 1/2 inch border to Sharon McGuan and mites to Karen Smith or place in the large box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support in mission outreach projects.

We welcome this new year, 2024. We are looking forward to new adventures in spreading the "Light of Christ".

A Blessed New Year to everyone!

Carol Obot



The heart of our faith

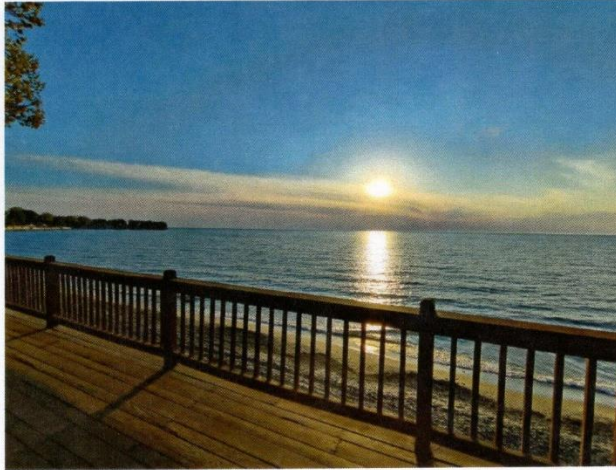


Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Esther Circle Outreach 2024 – Friends of Pioneer

PIONEER ON THE LAKE CHRISTAIN 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



Esther Circle Hosts Buffalo Zone Event

The Esther Circle will host the Buffalo Zone LWML for a “Mission In Reach Event” on Saturday, February 24th, from 9:00 am to noon. We are looking forward to inviting women from the zone to work together to reach out to Shut Ins all across the Buffalo Zone which encompasses an area from Batavia to Erie, PA. The zone will be asking pastors in our zone for the names of Shut Ins in their congregations. The women will then make up gift bags, including a small gift, reading materials and encouragement cards. We will also be collecting canned and dry goods for our Shut In’s in need of food items. Our goal is to visit as many of our Shut Ins, with the help of our pastors, as possible.

Ladies of Pilgrim: We welcome any women that would like to help in this endeavor join us on February 24th. You do not need to be a regular Esther Circle member to attend.

We will also have a box in the back of the church from January 21 to February 24 marked SHUT IN PROJECT to collect canned goods and dry goods. We welcome anyone in the congregation to contribute to our all-zone food collection and Mission Service Project. Please keep this Mission Project in your prayers that it may bless many in our area. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Sharon McGuan or Carol Obot. Thank you.





On December 17th, a Voters Meeting was held after the service. We welcomed Pastor Walsh and Margaret to Pilgrim. We are truly blessed to have you here!

The council would like to acknowledge and thank Pastor Chris Wicher for being Pilgrim's Interim Pastor over the last four months. He was a stabilizing and joyful shepherd for us during this transition period.

The Church Council for 2024 is: President – Mike Wuerch, Vice President – Sue Holway, Financial Secretary – Dianne Wuerch, Treasurer – Rhonda Mohr, Recording Secretary – Ruth Whitmer, Elders – Tyrone Bryant, Tim McGuan and one to be appointed.

Pastor Walsh has stated that he intends to reach out to each member by phone so he can introduce himself and address any concerns and prayer requests you may have. This will take time as he is still settling into his various duties.

The member roster is currently being updated. We would like to add emergency contact information for each member if any medical emergency happens at church. This will ensure that your family knows what is happening as soon as possible.

We are looking into getting an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the church. Training for using this device and using CPR will be included.

Thank you again to former Nazareth members for the donations of grounds equipment and communion supplies! They are much appreciated!

We now have a new way to give online – Tithely. This replaces the previous method. See the flyer in this issue for details. If you have any questions, contact Dianne Wuerch.

We have met our 2023 budget. Hurray! The budget for 2024 was discussed and approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17th, 2024. We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.





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. Click on the green Give button.



Find a church....Select Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Click Give Now

Follow directions....you will need to enter either a credit card or Bank Information first.



Tithe.ly transaction fees are as follows:

- **Credit / debit card** transactions:
2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction.
Example: \$100 donation → \$96.80 deposited.
- **ACH / Bank account** transactions:
1% + 0.30 per transaction.
Example: \$100 donation → \$98.70 deposited.

"Cover the fees"™: Tithe.ly *Cover the fees*™ enables your donors to cover the per transaction cost associated with online giving. This results in you paying even less for online giving. Churches who optionally turn on *Cover the fees*™ see at least 25% of all donors cover the fees, with many seeing as much as 75-80%, making your actual transaction rate closer to 1.9% per transaction.

You have the option to choose to cover the fee, it will automatically charge it to your offering amount. The church will then receive your full donation.

If you do not select the option, it will deduct the fee automatically and your offering will be deposited less.

Deposits are set up for 'weekly on Wednesdays'.

If you have any questions, please contact me.



Come Serve with Us!!

USHERS

READERS

COUNTERS

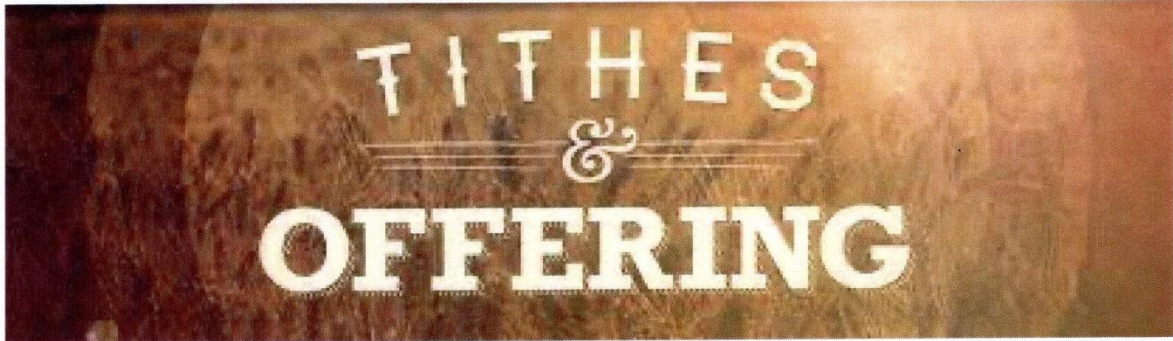
ALTAR GUILD

BUILDING & GROUNDS

VBS/SUNDAY SCHOOL

FELLOWSHIP

WE WILL HELP EACH OTHER & WORK TOGETHER !!!



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.

2023–2025 LWML Mission Grant #3

Serving God's Children with Special Needs

Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI

About This Mission Grant

We are all children of God, despite our differences, challenges, and life experiences. The mission of Journeys Lutheran School is to serve God's children age eight to 21 with special needs such as attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, autism, anxiety, trauma, emotional behavior disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. For 60 years the school, located in the Milwaukee area, has prepared students to maximize their spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social potential to become successful Christian members of society. Students are able to earn a high school diploma and participate in meaningful cultural, historical, and spiritual events. The enrollment in the high school program is growing. This grant will help purchase two vans to transport high school students enrolled in the School-to-Work Internship Program and students taking elective classes at nearby Martin Luther High School.



Graduation is a BIG day for Journeys Lutheran students, just like kids at other schools. They are excited that one journey is ending and another is just beginning.



At Journeys, music is foremost praise and prayer but is also an important educational tool for special needs students.



Journeys students love to express themselves through art and craft projects.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES

Individuals can reflect Jesus in their words and actions, whether they take place in the grocery store or online. People need to know Jesus. This creates a unique challenge for Christians. Many wonder how they can live for Christ in an internet culture where God is often not appreciated. LHM wants to do more than find ways to share the Gospel more effectively as an organization; it also wants to help you discover how to live for Christ in all aspects of life. That's why many resources are available online to connect with people at any stage of their individual faith journeys.

The Lutheran Hour (lutheranhour.org)

The weekly sermons of **The Lutheran Hour** dive into sections of Scripture that tell the story of our Savior. In addition to listening on local radio stations, you can also access The Lutheran Hour wherever you listen to podcasts, on the Daily Devotions app, and on media platforms like iHeartRadio, Spotify, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, and Sirius XM satellite radio.

Gospel Adventures (gospeladventures.org)

Gospel Adventures is a free, five-day curriculum for grade school- and middle school-aged youth. Watch videos each day that open kids' eyes to another place on the globe! Use the printable curriculum to walk children through the experience of meeting kids just like them from another part of the world. Play games, do crafts, and taste snacks of this new culture. Sing about God's love and discuss the God sightings you see throughout the week.

Gospel Adventures Show (gospeladventures.org/show)

The **Gospel Adventures Show** is a weekly audio program that takes young listeners on a Bible journey with hosts, Ben and Noah, to learn valuable biblical lessons from some of the most-loved Bible characters. Each 30-minute episode has a theme, Bible verse, Bible story, interactive activity, and a story from a kid. Find the episodes wherever you listen to podcasts or on the Gospel Adventures website.

Video-Based Bible Studies (lhm.org/studies)

More than 30 video-based Bible studies from LHM tackle relevant issues from a biblical perspective and are perfect for large or small group study. Each multi-session study is supported with a discussion guide and additional resource links. Some titles are also available with Spanish subtitles.

LHM Learn (lhm.org/learn)

These online courses and webinars cover five faith-strengthening categories and use an array of multimedia elements to help you gain a hearing for the Gospel message and reach out with the love of Jesus Christ in your everyday lives.

Daily Devotions (lhm.org/devotions)

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeartRadio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish.

Digital Research Kits (lhm.org/barna)

LHM's ongoing research with Barna Group has one goal: understanding how evangelism can be most effective in this digital age. Designed for church leaders, these kits include a digital copy of a monograph, a slide deck, links to video presentations, and a discussion guide, and more. A separate kit is available for each of the annual research topics: *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age*, *Households of Faith*, *Better Together*, and *Gifted for More*.

CPTLN Mobile App (lhm.org/apps)

The CPTLN (Christ for All Nations) app is a mobile hub for LHM's Spanish resources, programming, and media content that has been crafted *for Hispanics by Hispanics*. The app includes **Para el Camino** sermons, the **Sentido Latino** podcast, sermon notes, Daily Devotions, **Project Connect** booklets, Bible studies, reflections, Vivenciar.net, a Bible app, and a chat function. This is our first smartphone app entirely in Spanish, offering a convenient way to connect Hispanics to Jesus and equip them to share the Good News of the Gospel with others.

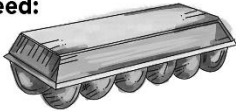
New INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

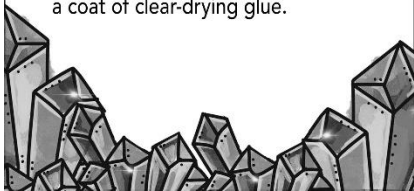
What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ
14	saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is
21	he	again	through	earth	made	while
28	new	if	and	creation		



- The second Monday _____
- The last Monday __
- The 16th _____
- One day before the 20th __
- The day before the first Friday __
- The last weekday of the second week _____
- The day after the 20th __
- The day after 18th __
- The first day of the second weekend _
- The last Sunday __
- The last day of the month _____

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS JANUARY 24TH.**