



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

AUGUST 2018

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





It goes without saying that this is an incredibly divisive time in our country right now. Without getting into the politics, both sides seem to regard one another especially as “deplorable” or “despicable.” What does the Bible say about the matter?

First and foremost, God’s Holy Word says that all mankind is “deplorable” and “despicable.” The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 3, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (v. 23). The Apostle John adds, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” – 1 John 1:8

When we say of others that they are “deplorable,” we are then implying that we are “better” than they are. The fact is, we are all sinners who are called by God to repent. The failure to do so makes us like the Pharisee in the parable that Jesus tells:

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” – Luke 18:9-14

Since it has been established that we are all sinners – that no one is “better” than another – what is our escape from this “deplorable” condition? Returning to Romans 3, Paul concludes, “²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” And returning to 1 John 1, the Apostle writes, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” V. 9

Jesus is the Answer! Jesus is our deliverance! Rather than pointing out the sins of others, let us first examine ourselves and repent of our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. Jesus warns us to take the “log” out of our own eye before we try to take out the “speck” in our neighbor’s eye (Matthew 7:1-5).

According to our sinful nature, we are “deplorable;” but according to Christ’s righteousness, we are “redeemable” because we have been redeemed (that is, purchased or “bought back”) from the hold of sin and the devil over us by Christ’s blood. Let us give thanks for the righteousness of Christ which covers all sins.

+ Pastor Ben Eder



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2018

DATE ➡	Aug. 5	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 26	
READER	Carolyn Alessi	Abigail Size	Mary Werth	Tyrone Bryant	
USHERS	Mike Weurch * Dianne Weurch	Tegwanda Alford * Peggy Clark	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Jim O'Brien * George Alessi	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	Gary Smith	
NURSERY	Ruth & Gaby O'Brien	Linda Eder	Carol Obot	Peggy Clark	



Living sacrifices

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges Jesus' followers to perform spiritual worship by being "a living sacrifice." For Old Testament believers, that concept would have been an oxymoron. A sacrifice, after all, required bloodshed and death to absolve sins.

New Testament believers — us included — may squirm at the idea too. "The problem with a living sacrifice," as D.L. Moody noted, "is that it keeps crawling off the altar."

Living for Jesus is an all-in commitment. Being a living sacrifice involves forsaking the world and our own desires. But through God's grace and Jesus' sacrificial love, we can alter our attitude and stay on the altar.



August

BIRTHDAYS

Mike Eder	Aug. 1
Gary Smith	Aug. 11
Jarrold Clark	Aug. 13
Veronica Keef	Aug. 13
Carol Obot	Aug. 22
Eric Fellner	Aug. 26
Bob Rigerman	Aug. 28
Hans Heckleman	Aug. 31



August

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 26 Tim & Sharon McGuan

(If you want your birthday and/or anniversary in the newsletter, please let me know. Thank you. – Mary Werth)



ESTHER CIRCLE

We are having a Rummage and Baked Goods sale on August 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with a bag sale starting at 1:30 p.m. There is no admission fee.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone willing to help with baking, set-up and clean-up.

Items for the Rummage Sale such as clothes, books, (no textbooks, dictionaries or encyclopedias), CDs, DVDs, housewares, knick-knacks etc. may be dropped off at church on the following dates and times:

August 15th - 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

August 16th - 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

August 17th - 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

**** Baked Goods may be brought to church on August 17th only. ****

If you have any questions, contact Karen or any Esther Circle member.

If you have any Dash's tapes, please give them to Sue Holway. We need \$5000 worth before we can turn them in and we are \$2000 short of that goal.

"This is my final month as President of the Esther Circle. I want to thank all the ladies for their help and encouragement these past three years. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity. Blessings to Sue Holway and Carol Obot who will be co-presidents starting in September."
- Karen Smith



PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO P.A.L.s meeting in August.

There will be NO Community Dinner in August. Everyone is taking a very well-deserved break after the highly successful Community Picnic. It will resume in September.



Our annual church picnic will be held on August 12th at the Alessi's from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Many thanks to them for hosting us again!



Feeding souls

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY, hosted a wonderful community picnic. There were so many people that they had to set up extra tables and go out for more food - twice!

(from the weekly English District e-newsletter SERVANT TO SERVANT 7/13/18)



Vacation Bible School was held from July 9th to July 13th. There were 13 children who attended. According to Carol Obot, it was “rocking”! The adult class was also a success.

From a worship bulletin:

VBS was a big success.

Here's a shoot-out to all who helped with VBS!

Our volunteers are the best!

Maybe VBS had a Wild West theme this year!



Take a minute to download the free LHM **Video Bible Studies** app from Lutheran Hour Ministries! When you do, you have immediate access to award-winning, original Bible studies with streaming video, study guides, downloads, and more - the Studies app puts a host of Christ-centered tools at your fingertips.



You can now access Lutheran Hour Ministries' **Daily Devotions** on your mobile device by using the new Daily Devotions app!

- Inspirational Scripture-based messages at your fingertips every day
 - Season-themed devotions during Advent and Lent
 - Read the devotion text or listen to the audio version
- Share the devotion with a friend using Twitter, Facebook or e-mail





Looking up

World-renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking (1942-2018) stated: “Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.” His sentiment is especially fitting for August, when many people try to count the falling stars of the Perseid meteor shower.

As a self-proclaimed atheist, Hawking relied on science to answer “what makes the universe exist.” Yet many Christians believe that while science shows *how* things happen or were created, our faith tells *who* made them so.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (NIV) declares: “And when you look up to the sky and see ... the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.” We can be grateful for the work of scientists and the wonders their study reveals, but instead of “bowing down” to nature, we worship its Creator and Ruler — the Lord of heaven and earth.

Our bright beacon

We are frequently advised to read the Bible with our own personal needs in mind, and to look for answers to our own private questions. ... But better still is the advice to study the Bible objectively ... without regard, first of all, to our own subjective needs.

Let the great passages fix themselves in our memory. Let them stay there permanently, like bright beacons, launching their powerful shafts of light upon life’s problems — our own and everyone’s. Following such a method, we discover that the Bible does “speak to our condition” and meet our needs, not just occasionally or when some emergency arises, but continually.

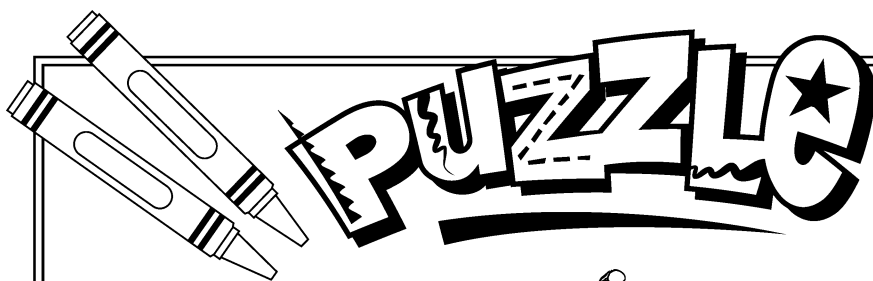
—Frederick C. Grant

Out of mind

“When my wife and I argue, she always gets historical,” a man said. “Don’t you mean hysterical?” his friend asked. “No, I mean historical,” the man replied. “She’s always bringing up the past!”

Forgiveness is tough when you can’t stop dwelling on wrongs and slights. If you have that problem, consider the 24-letter tongue-twister *issumagijoujungnainermik*.

Around 1739, Moravian missionaries faced a “lexical gap” when they tried to explain forgiveness to an Eskimo Indian tribe. Their language didn’t have an adequate word for the concept, so the missionaries had to create one using several existing Eskimo words. The result is a mouthful, but it’s a perfect expression of the true meaning of forgiveness. *Issumagijoujungnainermik* translates as “not being able to think about it anymore.”



GOD'S amazzzing BEES

God created bees to pollinate flowers and make honey. Psalm 119:103 says God gives us something that's even sweeter than honey.

Directions: Find the word that fits each clue. Then write the answers in the correct numbered honeycomb shape to complete Psalm 119:103, NIV.

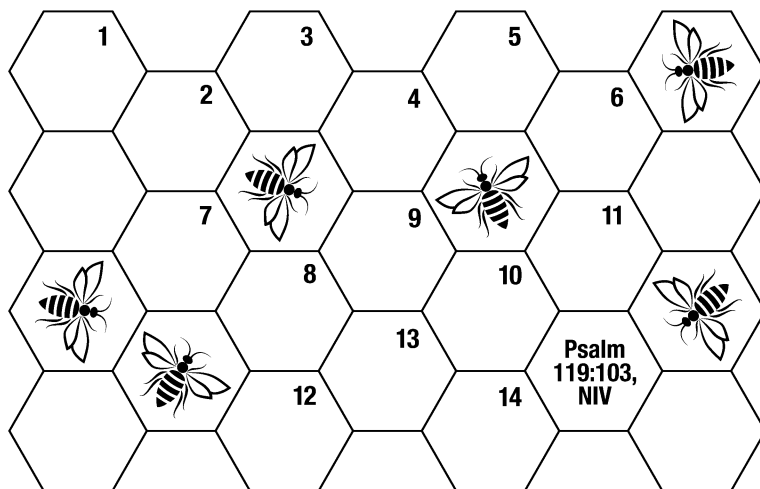
CLUES

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. rhymes with cow | 8. the tongue's job |
| 2. opposite of sour | 9. more sweet |
| 3. pronounced "R" | 10. rhymes with pan |
| 4. rhymes with four | 11. golden liquid |
| 5. Letters create ____. | 12. Pleased __ meet you. |
| 6. not too or two | 13. rhymes with fly |
| 7. rhymes with by | 14. body part |



WORD BANK

than your to are
sweet sweeter How
my honey mouth
words to taste, my



Answer: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103, NIV

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats as a summer snack.

What you need:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help

What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 26TH.