



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**JUNE 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



## ***From the Pastor***

Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, will mark an important milestone for me: it will be my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as your pastor. I wish I could say I planned it that way, but that's the way it worked out: God always found ways to keep me here.

In theory, when a Lutheran pastor enters the ministry he “signs on” for life: a pastor is released from his Divine Call through death, retirement, or given a peaceable release when another congregation calls him to be their pastor and he accepts.

In earlier times, pastors tended to have longer pastorates and would often stay with one congregation for the majority of their time in the ministry. Today, the average length of a pastorate is about four years (18 months for a first call in the parish).

Much has been written about the blessings and benefits of a congregation having a long pastorate. To explain how this works, I like to use the “Gunsmoke” analogy.

“Gunsmoke” was the longest-running TV series with a lead character: James Arness played Marshal Matt Dillon of Dodge City for 20 years. During that time, many changes occurred during the course of the series: the show eventually went from black & white to color; the format changed from 30-minutes to 60; producers and other creative people came and went; cast members changed; but there was always one constant: James Arness as Matt Dillon. He was the centerpiece of the show and remained so until its abrupt (and surprising) cancellation even after 20 years.

Being the pastor of a single congregation for over 20 years is very similar: through the years, people come and go through baptism, membership transfers (both in and out), and those who are reached through other means (friends and acquaintances of church members, inviting someone to church, or even someone prompted by the Holy Spirit to walk through the door). Sometimes, how we “do” church changes through the years: while certain emphases or programs may change in response to different needs and times, it has been my experience that it is God's people who change through the years. The Gospel has a way of transforming believers into the image of Christ, and it is a wondrous thing to behold.

One more thing: while the long-tenured pastor may have been with a congregation for a long time, he is not (at least shouldn't be) the “centerpiece” of the parish – the center of a congregation's life and ministry is Jesus Christ. For over 40 years, Robert Schuller was the “centerpiece” of the Crystal Cathedral in Southern California. For most of those years, he was one of the most famous preachers in America. When he retired, what happened? Because his ministry was mostly about “him” and “possibility thinking” and not the Gospel, the church collapsed. His children fought over control, parishioners left by the droves, and eventually the ministry ended, and the church was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange County, where it serves as the Diocese Headquarters to this day.

Keep your eyes on Jesus, and He will take care of His Church. Pastors come and go, but Jesus is the Church's High Priest forever.

Whether you arrived early in my tenure, in the middle years, or later, thank you for being with me on this journey. In whatever time remains, let us walk together in the steps of Christ who leads us.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder



# SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

## JUNE 2018

DATE →	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
READER	Scot LaFalce	Carolyn Alessi	Abigail Size	Sue Holway
USHERS	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Tegwanda Alford * Peggy Clark	Jim O'Brien * George Alessi
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	Gary Smith	Eric Fellner
NURSERY	Carolyn Alessi	Amber Trimmer	Carol Obot	Peggy Clark
ACOLYTE	Seth Keef	Lily Hinterberger	Gaby O'Brien	Philip Hinterberger



### A church or a club?

Rev. Theodore Wedel, a former canon of the National Cathedral, once told a parable about congregational life. It began: “On a dangerous sea coast where shipwrecks often occur, there was a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea.”

Some neighbors and people who’d been rescued began donating time and money, thinking the station needed better furnishings and equipment. As the station grew as a gathering place, members hired lifeboat crews to do the dirty work of saving lives. Those who disagreed with that approach broke away to form their own stations.

The parable concluded: “If you visit that sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.”



Rod Mohr	Jun. 3
Mike Wuerch	Jun. 9
Marie Curcie	Jun. 10
Robert Schober	Jun. 10
June Pfohl	Jun. 13
Jim Rodgers Sr.	Jun. 18
Scot LaFalce	Jun. 25
Betty Yesny	Jun. 26
Diane Jakubowski	Jun. 27
Mary Werth	Jun. 28

Jun. 17	Gary & Karen Smith
Jun. 22	Paul & Sue Holway
Jun. 29	Alan & Kathy Kornacki

### **My compliments to the Creator**

Dear God,

I saw the Grand Canyon this summer. Nice piece of work!

Love,

Kyle (age 9)



## ESTHER CIRCLE

**PLEASE NOTE:** As stated in previous newsletters, this is my last year as president. My term will come to an end August 31. We need someone to lead the group. So far, no one has volunteered. Perhaps there could be co-presidents. Also, the group does not meet every month. How often you meet is up to the members. Right now, we meet about 8 times a year but that could be changed to accommodate other schedules. The ladies have been very supportive during my presidency and I know they will continue to be supportive of whoever takes the lead. Please consider stepping up. Thank you.

- Karen Smith



There will be NO baked goods sale in June. We decided to do a combination of a baked goods sale and rummage sale on August 18th. There will be **THREE** designated days to bring clean and usable items to church for the rummage sale. These days will be announced in the August newsletter and at the Sunday worship service.

The hostess for Fellowship Hour on June 24<sup>th</sup> is Dianne Weurch.

The Esther Circle **WILL NOT** meet in June or July. The next meeting will be August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### Free Community Dinner



The next Community Dinner will be on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5 to 7 p.m. It's **TACO NIGHT!** The menu is soft and hard tacos, taco bowls, chicken and bean burritos, with various sides, served with a fresh fruit bowl, tossed salad and assorted desserts and beverages. This dinner is sponsored in part by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



The P.A.L.s (Pilgrim Active Laymen) will meet on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us.



## Free Community Picnic - Saturday, July 7, 2018

**Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

We are in the process of deciding what foods we will have and what we need from the congregation. After the June Community Dinner, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You may call Gary (716 348-4096) or Wes (716 874-6956) with any questions.

**\*\* This is a free social event for everyone. \*\***



**!!! BOUNCE HOUSE, GAMES AND FUN !!!**

[Sponsored by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod](#)



## **Do a Little Digging: LHM Has Resources Aplenty**

The May-June issue of *The Lutheran Layman* reminds readers that LHM has a treasure trove of solid biblical tools and ministry-empowering resources that are available to foster outreach, for personal edification, and to serve communities of faith.

In "Digging up the Bigger Picture," readers will see how research has long informed LHM's resource development over the years and how its current partnership with the Barna Group will continue to help LHM produce solid biblically based programs and materials going forward.

In other news, you'll find a brief tribute to Rev. Billy Graham who enjoyed a longtime relationship with Dr. Oswald Hoffman, former Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**. Graham died on February 21. Be sure to check out the program details of LHM's upcoming celebration event, SENT, to be held August 3-5 in Milwaukee. A listing of events and the bios of guests from five of LHM's international ministry centers who will be attending and sharing their work is included as well. Read, too, about **THRED** and what its accomplished in the first year of operation. Always of interest is LHM's **Online Mission Trip**. This year it featured Cambodia in January. This online learning experience is a great way for students to explore another culture and come away with a better understanding of their classmates around the world. Stories on LHM's mission work in Paraguay, India, and the Middle East and North Africa highlight excellent work being done in those countries and regions, too. A new LHM Learn course, *Redeeming Creation*, is now available FREE online. Also, as shown in the top section of this newsletter is Sentido Latino, a new Spanish-language podcast launched on April 26. Read how this new offering is designed to interface with Latinos in the U.S., giving them words of hope and encouragement as they live and thrive in this country.

Also included are comments from Rev. Ken Klaus, interim Speaker for The Lutheran Hour; Phil Johnson, chairman of the Int'l LLL Board of Directors; and Kurt Buchholz, president and CEO of LHM.

To check out the current issue online, go to LHM's homepage when you [click here](#); then drop down to the bottom right of the page and you'll find it.

To receive *The Lutheran Layman* by mail six times a year, simply send your request and \$5 to our offices at 660 Mason Ridge Center Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141.



## THE MASTER SPEAKS

Come unto me without delay  
Before this moment pass away.

I'll share your sorrow, calm your fear  
And wipe away each tender tear.

I am your friend, I'll be your guide  
And I will stay close by your side.

I'll shelter you from every harm  
I'll keep you safe from all alarm.

For time and thru eternity  
You'll find my lamp glows endlessly.

I'll light your path, your steps I'll trace  
Till you behold my kindly face.

You say our paths could never meet? –  
Behold my side, my hands, my feet!



You are invited to attend Vacation Bible School 2018 from 6:00 PM to 8:15 PM, Monday, July 9th through Friday, July 13th!! This year's VBS Theme is *Splash Canyon: God's Promise On Life's Wild Ride*.

Pilgrim's VBS offers a preschool program for children four and five and a grade school program for children to 12 years. We are also asking all our preteen members and teens to come and help, assisting and sharing their faith with the young children. Registration sheets will be in the church narthex and the next church newsletter.

Adults can join in many ways:

- + assisting our five-day staff for one, two, or up to five days*
- + attending the special VBS adult bible class, led by Pastor Ben*
- + donating supplies that will be listed on the church bulletin board*
- + donating to our \$100 VBS Madagascar Mission Goal: raising money to buy Bible-based books for the churches in Madagascar*

*So, what is the program??*

*Here are some of the wonderful BIBLE promises we will be sharing:*

God said, "I will be with you." Exodus 3:12

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall NOT overwhelm you." Isaiah 43:2

And . . . this is the promise that He made to us - eternal life. 1 John 2:25

I do not know about you, but those verses are a comfort to me in today's world. So, I am looking forward to sharing those verses, and the accompanying stories, with all the grade school age kids, teen helpers and adult leaders that come to the VBS Storytelling Center.

Our Bible school will be a beautiful and joyful place! Not just because of the creative and beautiful decorations, the delicious snacks and the exciting crafts and games; but because together we will gather around God's Holy Word and sing His praises!

Our stories this year tell of the faith journeys of Moses, Joshua, Naaman, Paul and Jesus' baptism. They are stories that build faith and trust in Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

So, again, we invite you all. Please put this special week on your calendar now. Please pray for our VBS team and all the people who will be attending. And prayerfully consider registering your children and grandchildren, attending yourself and bringing a guest to celebrate *Splash Canyon: God's Promise On Life's Wild Ride!*

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

44 Chapel Road – Kenmore NY 14217

716-875-5485

July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm – 8:15pm

**2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION** (One form per child, please)

\*Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female

Grade just finished: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Issues or Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Place my child in the same group as (child's name): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_

\*State: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (first and last name): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Pickup (first and last name): \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Pickup Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

General Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# DADS are a BLESSING

Surprise your dad or another special man with this Father's Day gift.



### What you need:

- Photos of you and your loved one (together, if possible)
- Scissors
- 8.5" x 11" paper
- Glue stick
- Marker
- 8.5" x 11" photo frame



### What you do:

1. Cut photos into shapes (hearts, circles, etc.).
2. Arrange photos on the paper, leaving room for a message, and glue them down.
3. Write: "I'm blessed as can be. My heavenly Father has given me the best \_\_\_\_\_ [dad, uncle, friend] in the world, and he belongs to me!"
4. Place your picture message in the frame.
5. Give your gift to show love and appreciation.



## Beloved children

God our heavenly Father loves us so much that he calls us his.

*Directions: Follow the instructions below. Then read the remaining words, going across the rows from left to right, to complete 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV.*

- Cross out the opposite of blessings.
- Cross out the opposite of found.
- Cross out the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
- Cross out a word for disobeying God.
- Cross out the opposite of love.
- Cross out an animal.
- Cross out a word for jail.
- Cross out what happened to Jesus.
- Cross out a place.
- Cross out the opposite of friends.
- Cross out a book of the Bible.

I	enemies	will	be	Judas
hate	a	Father	to	serpent
you	and	you	will	crucified
cursings	be	my	sons	and
sin	Golgotha	daughters	says	the
Lamentations	prison	Lord	Almighty	lost

Answer: "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
JULY NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>.**