



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

NOVEMBER 2018

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

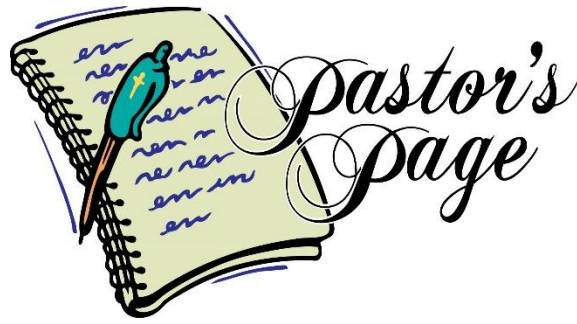
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



**GIVE
THANKS FOR
OUR VETERANS**



Winston Churchill is supposed to have said, “*Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.*” ...meaning, no system of government is perfect on earth; yet democracy is the best we have.

In a sense, the same thing could be said about the church on earth: it is not perfect, but it's the best we have.

When I say that the church on earth is not perfect, of course I'm referring to the people in it: God's grace is perfect, but people are not. Luther said that Christians on earth are “saints and sinners simultaneously” (“at the same time”). Christians on earth are sinners according to their flesh, but saints due to God's grace in Christ.

Since Sunday, November 4th is “All Saints' Sunday,” I would like to take this opportunity to discuss “sainthood.”

In the Holy Scriptures, the word “saint” (“*agios*” in the Greek) literally means “Holy one,” and applies to all believers in Jesus Christ, no exceptions! By God's grace, through faith alone in Jesus Christ, you're a saint, and I'm a saint!

As you can imagine, the word “Hagiography” means “lives of the saints.” For the Christian, the lives of saints past serves as an example for those of us still present in the flesh here on earth.

The word “saint” not only applies to the Apostles, Martin Luther, and other notables of the faith, but also to our believing grandparents, parents, other relatives, friends, and all those other Christians from all times and places who faithfully (and often quietly, without fanfare or notice) served Jesus in their various vocations and undertakings.

Since Jesus is the only intercessor between God and human beings, we are not to pray to the saints or appeal to them in any way; nevertheless, there is nothing stopping them from praying for us, even while in heaven! It is comforting to know that our believing loved ones in heaven are praying for their loved ones who are still on earth.

While sin still cleaves to us here on earth, isn't it great to know that in God's kingdom we will be purified from the sin that now clings to us? Christ has declared us righteous now, for His sake, but in paradise our righteousness will shine as brightly as the sun!

In the meantime, may God grant us perseverance in the faith as we cry, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Ben Eder



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2018

DATE ➡	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	
READER	Wes Weirs	Karen Smith	Dooley O'Rourke	Eric Fellner	
USHERS	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Mike Weurch * Dianne Weurch	Jim O'Brien * George Alessi	Tegwanda Alford * Peggy Clark	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Gary Smith	Eric Fellner	Frank Alessi	George Alessi	
NURSERY	Carol Obot	Jim & Gabby O'Brien	Peggy Clark	Carolyn Alessi	



Little word, big difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks *for* everything. You don't need to give thanks *for* that bad day. Or *for* that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks *for* the difficulties but rather *in* the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks *in* everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans



Loretta Himmele

Nov. 1



Nov. 12

Abigail & Kevin Size

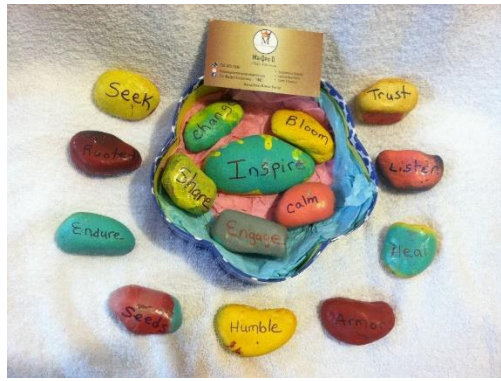
***** IF YOUR BIRTHDAY AND/OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT LISTED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN ADD YOU TO MY LIST. THANK YOU. - MARY WERTH *****



The genius of generosity

Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that “there is a certain genius in generosity.” He explains that when we open our hands — figuratively speaking — to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it with tightly clenched fists, God can give us new blessings.

“God cannot pour more into hands that are already clinging tightly to what they hold,” says Wellman. Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, God’s genius cycle of generosity goes on and on.



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our November meeting is Monday, the 12th, at 6:30 pm. All women are welcome! Last month we shared our "Inspirational Stones" (pictured above). They were made by a young entrepreneur, age 10, from Buffalo - Mar Ques. He was delighted that the Esther Circle planned to use his stones for a time of reflection. He gave us the larger stone with the word "Inspire". That was the goal: to inspire each woman in the Esther Circle to share their stone with others.

All women and men are invited to attend our December meeting on the 10th. We will be hosting a speaker, Ron Calandra, Executive Director of Hearts for the Homeless. This is the agency the Esther Circle collected donations for this year at the Pot Faith Meals and Fellowship time. We will also be doing a cookie exchange and cookie packing for shut-ins. There will be more information on this in the December newsletter.

Reminder! Please give Dash's tapes to Sue Holway and mite boxes to Karen Smith. Thank you!

A Blessed Thanksgiving to everyone!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next Community Dinner will be held on Friday, November 2nd, from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu is Hungarian goulash and assorted desserts and beverages.



The P.A.L.s (Pilgrim Active Laymen) will meet on Saturday, November 17th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us.

63rd Annual
**CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT
VESPERS**



**DECEMBER 2, 2018
4:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

First Trinity Lutheran Church
1570 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, NY

Candlelight Procession, Choral & Instrumental Music,
Congregational Singing, Handbell Choir _____ Lutheran Church
St. John Lutheran Church School Choir & Holy Cross Children's Choir
David Werth, Music & Choir Director

Free Will Offering
Advance Contributions will be greatly appreciated

Coffee Hour after 7:00 Service

Sponsored by:
Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center and Buffalo Area Members of Valparaiso University Guild

In a spirit of Christian giving, I wish to support Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center and Valparaiso University.

Congregational or Business Sponsor \$50 and above _____

Patron \$50 and above _____ Donor \$25 _____ Friend \$10 _____

Given by: (*print as you wish it to appear in the program - deadline for program is November 15, 2018*)

ADDRESS _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Make Checks Payable to:

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT VESPERS

Return to:

*Christmas Candlelight Vespers
c/o Anne Kanaley
17 Lombardy Lane
Hamburg, NY 14075*



Dear Friend of Christmas Candlelight Vespers:

The 63rd Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers will take place on December 2nd, 2018 at 4:00 and 7:00 PM. The host location is First Trinity Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY. Please come and invite your friends to join you for this service of light, under the direction of David Werth.

For each of the Vesper's past 62 years, there has been a hymn, anthem, or scripture that has inspired the theme and music selections for the service. Our 63rd service is inspired by the hymn, "How Can I Keep from Singing".

*Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

Our Vespers will include the very first songs of Christmas contained in the opening chapters of Luke; the singers are Mary, Zechariah, the angels and Simeon. What they sing is amazing, because they capture the sheer explosive impact of the birth of a baby boy, not only upon their time, but upon all times. These are songs of comfort and of challenge, songs of quiet peace and of global upheaval, and songs that wrap mind and heart around the most important moment in the history of the world – how could they keep from singing? How can you and I keep from singing? We pray that your heart will be stirred by this special evening and we invite you to join us this Advent season.

Valparaiso University Guild members are very proud to have co-sponsored Vesper's since its inception. Our current co-sponsor, Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, provides services right here in the Western New York Community!

*Pioneer Camps' vision statement- To show the face of Jesus to all-- by words and actions--
amidst the splendor of God's creation, gives a glimpse of this fine Christ Centered organization.*

*The Valparaiso University Mission Statement represents their dedication to our wider church
community - "Valparaiso University, a community of learning dedicated to excellence and
grounded in the Lutheran tradition of scholarship, freedom, and faith, prepares students to
lead and serve in both church and society."*

While the primary purpose of this event is worship, rather than a fundraiser, generous donations by patrons have allowed us to contribute offerings to the Valparaiso Annual Guild Student Gift, for such programs as Engineers and Nurses without Borders, Chapel and campus renovations and smaller department grants.

Pioneer Camp utilizes the Vespers donations primarily for Agape Camp, a camp for those with Developmental Disabilities, and Papyrus Camp, a special program for youth in foster care, grandparent care or other out of home placements. We would love to be able to continue the level of support provided in past years to these fine Christian organizations. We are asking you to prayerfully consider a Patron donation to our program.

We have enclosed a flyer for the **Christmas Candlelight Vespers** and hope you will consider adding your name, or business name, to our Patron Listing. We also welcome church listings, so please feel free to share this with your Pastor or church council. Perhaps you would like to place this gift in memory or in honor of a loved one; the form enables you to do so. Christmas Vesper's are a blessing to the Western New York Community, and in turn we strive to bless Valparaiso University and Pioneer Camp Retreat Center with financial assistance to continue their respective missions to the students and campers. To our past patrons, we thank you for your previous support and humbly request that you consider continuing this support again this Advent season.

May this Advent bring peace to your heart, to your home and to our world.
In Christ's Service,



“God is nigh”

The earliest official reference to using “Taps” at a military funeral is described in an 1891 manual. During the Civil War, a Union soldier “was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods.” Because it wasn’t safe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, Captain John Tidball decided the sounding of “Taps” would be an appropriate substitute ceremony.

Previously, “Taps” signaled the end of a soldier’s work day, but it has since come to honor the end of his or her earthly life. Horace Trim’s lyrics remind us of God’s constant presence:

Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh.

Little word, big difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks *for* everything. You don't need to give thanks *for* that bad day. Or *for* that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks *for* the difficulties but rather *in* the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks *in* everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans

More than skin deep

Gratitude, said Martin Luther, is “the basic Christian attitude.” Yet gratitude is much more than a state of mind. Often, it's a decision, and it becomes an act of humility when we recognize our depravity — and our need for a Savior.

The 10 disgraced lepers who beg Jesus for mercy (see Luke 17:11-19) are described as *allogenes*, Greek for “outcast.” (All humans, sick with sin, fit that description!) The leper who returned to give thanks received more than just physical healing, according to Scripture. When Jesus says, “Your faith has made you well,” he uses the Greek that means “Your faith has saved you.” The grateful leper, recognizing his depravity, humbly decides to return and give thanks, knowing — through faith — that his skin *and* his soul have been healed.

Holiday hospitality

Beth Lewis, CEO of 1517 Media, blogged about a favorite holiday tradition: inviting over people who'd otherwise be alone. Her grandchildren prepared hand-made place cards, wrapped small gifts for the guests and helped cook the meal.

Then one year, Thanksgiving happened to coincide with a cross-country move for Grandma and Grandpa. Chaos and stress almost buried the tradition — until Lewis's 9-year-old granddaughter asked nonchalantly, “Who's joining us for dinner this year?”

Lewis writes: “In the busyness of moving, it hadn't even occurred to me. But, for her, it is simply what our family does!” So, they extended some invitations, ate on paper plates among moving boxes and had a joyous time. Lewis was proud of her granddaughter for the reminder that hospitality is a value worth practicing and modeling — and even turning into a holiday tradition!



LHM Ministry Response



The Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) ministry center in Panama City has been effective in utilizing printed resources, mass media, and programs to share the Gospel and hope in Jesus Christ. All of LHM—Panama's activities have a common objective: to bring Christ to the nations, and the nations to Christ. Out of all the outreach programs working to achieve this goal, **Project JOEL** and the **Equipping the Saints (ETS)** workshops have had the most significant impact.

The **Project JOEL** program was instituted in an effort to bring a solid Christian witness to Panamanian youth and provide them with information to truly help them to share their values. It has now become an integral preventive program designed to expose and offer educators and students alternative faith-based lifestyles that are more healthy and productive for society.

ETS training is given to lay Lutheran people in preparation for evangelism. It is equipping them with evangelistic materials and other resources to help the ministry reach the lost.

Three types of **Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC)** are offered through the ministry. Namely: "Towards a New Life," "Knowing Jesus Christ for Adults" and "A Loving Father and a Good Friend for Children."

LHM—Panama ministry programs:

30 second Radio Spot	Radio Program - topical
TV Spots - topical	Online TV
Facebook	SplashCast
BLOG	VodPod
Email	Booklets
Newspaper Ads	

Bible Correspondence Courses

Between You & Me Counseling Program

Visit of Hope & Comfort Program

Film Showing

Project JOEL

Equipping the Saints Workshop

Sharing Your Faith in Your Physical Need Program



SAVE THE DATE!

We will be decorating the church on Saturday, December 1st, at 9:30 a.m.

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Portland, Maine:

this year's feast includes:

turkey, gravy, masked potatoes ...

please RSVP by Nov. 22

We'd love to know the secret behind this *mashed* dish.

From a church newsletter:

Our church faced many challenges this year.

We've cleared many hurtles so far.

And with God's help, we'll press on.

But the *hurdle* of word choice remains!

From a church bulletin in Alhambra, California:

this Wednesday - Bible Study

This Thursday - Thanksgiving Service

Bring your canned fools.

This Sunday - Worship



Bible Word Search: Twenty Miracles of Jesus

To solve this fun and educational word search puzzle, you'll need the clues below. Read each Bible passage that tells about one of the miracles Jesus performed. Then finish each sentence. The number in () tells how many letters are in each word. Then find the words you supplied in the word search. Words may appear in any direction.



1. John 2:1-11 Jesus turned (5) _____ into (4) _____.
2. John 4: 46-54 Jesus healed the royal official's (3) _____.
3. Luke 4:33-37 Jesus healed a man possessed by a (5) _____.
4. Matthew 8:14-15 Jesus healed the mother-in-law of (5) _____.

Clues are continued on the next page.



5. Luke 5:3-10 He caused Peter, James and (4) _____ to catch a large number of (4) _____.
6. Matthew 8: 1-3 Jesus healed a (5) _____.
7. Matthew 8:5-13 He healed a centurion's (7) _____.
8. Matthew 9: 1-8 Jesus healed a (9) _____ man.
9. Mark 3:1-6 Jesus healed a man with a (9) _____ hand.
10. Luke 7:11-17 Jesus raised the son of a (5) _____.
11. Mark 4:35-41 Jesus made the (4) _____ and (5) _____ obey him.
12. Mark 5:1-13 Jesus healed a man with an (6) _____ (6) _____.
13. Matthew 9:20-22 Jesus healed a (5) _____ who had been (8) _____ for (6) _____ years.
14. Matthew 9:27-31 He healed two (5) _____ men.
15. Matthew 14:16-21 Jesus fed five (8) _____ men and their families with (4) _____ loaves and (3) _____ fish.
16. Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus went out to his disciples, (7) _____ on the lake.
17. Matthew 15:21-28 Jesus healed a woman's (8) _____ who was demon-possessed.
18. John 11:1-44 Jesus raised (7) _____ from the dead.
19. Mark 10:46-52 Jesus healed a blind (6) _____ named (10) _____.
20. Luke 22:45-54 Jesus restored the severed (3) _____ of the servant of the high (6) _____.

