



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

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A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

SEPTEMBER 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





I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the clergy sex abuse scandal that is roiling the country, many parts of the world, and even here in Western New York. My purpose is not to point out the sins of the Roman Catholic Church, but to be vigilant ourselves.

While God's grace is perfect, and He never fails us in His Word and Sacraments, it is good to remember that the Church on earth is made up of imperfect, sinful people who sometimes sin and act badly. In this regard, it is an especially heinous act for the leaders of the Church to misuse and abuse their authority over the sheep Christ has placed in their charge.

Jesus warns us about "Wolves in sheep's clothing" *Matthew 7:15* and Ezekiel condemns the false shepherds who desert and even harm the flock through their words and actions (Ezekiel Chapter 34). Jesus has a special condemnation for those who hurt and abuse the children in their care: not only literal children, but all the "children" of the Church (those who are weak, vulnerable, etc.). *Matthew 18:1-6*

Whenever our Church leaders fail us, it is important to remember that our faith rests in Jesus, not in them. The very best shepherds are still sinners but also try to emulate Jesus through their faithfulness to the flock entrusted to their care. As the writer to the Hebrews says of them, *"Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was."* - Hebrews 5:1-4

Jesus is the High Priest who has atoned (paid for) the sins of the world with His own life blood. The priest (or pastor) on earth stands in the place of Jesus (in accordance with his office) and proclaims Christ's forgiveness to the repentant and distributes His gifts of forgiveness of sins in the Sacraments to those who receive and believe. In this way, the pastor also receives forgiveness for his own sins and is refreshed to serve Jesus in the days ahead.

While every pastor is a sinner, there are some sins which are so disqualifying that those who commit them must be removed from ministry and (in some cases) be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We are now seeing this spectacle take place primarily in the Roman Catholic Church (although every denomination/church body has their problems and issues too).

As God continues to weed out the unfaithful and corrupt, may He continue to provide faithful undershepherds who will point us to Jesus and remind us of Him through their words and example.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Ben Eder +



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2018

DATE ➡	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30
READER	Karen Smith	Eric Fellner	Tim McGuan	Scot LaFalce	Carolyn Alessi
USHERS	Scot LaFalce * Traci LaFalce	Tegwanda Alford * Peggy Clark	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Mike Weurch * Dianne Weurch
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric Fellner	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	Gary Smith
NURSERY	Jim & Gaby O'Brien	Carolyn Alessi	Amber Trimmer	Linda Eder	George Alessi



A legacy of faith

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15 children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents — and, in this mobile society, surrogate grandparents — also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."



Lee Fellner

Sept. 13

Harvey Caldw

Sept. 20

Alan Kornacki

Sept. 26



Sept. 1

Rev. Ben & Linda Eder

Sept. 9

Bryan & Sarah Hinterberger



The challenge of Scripture

GQ magazine recently included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don’t believe in God, the Bible helps you understand Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible — God’s inspired Word — reveals God’s love and will. It isn’t always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original Blessing*, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.”



ESTHER CIRCLE

Thank you, Karen Smith, for your blessings to Sue Holway and myself as co-presidents of the Esther Circle. The September meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 10th, at 6:30 pm. at the church. We welcome ALL women to attend. We will be discussing the new year calendar and other activities we may want to do.

There will be a "Pot Faith" meal during fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 23rd. You may bring a dish to pass. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

We continue to need Dash's tapes to meet our collection goal for the year. Please give yours or your friends and neighbors tapes to Sue Holway.

Sue and I are looking forward to an inspiring year of fellowship with the Esther Circle in serving Christ!

- Carol Obot



COMMUNITY DINNER

The next Community Dinner will be on Friday, September 7th, from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu is spaghetti and meat sauce with sausage, salad, bread and butter 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, September 15th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us.



BAKED GOODS/RUMMAGE SALE RESULTS

The combined total for this fundraising event was \$631.95. The proceeds go to Hearts for the Homeless, a mobile soup kitchen that feeds the poor and homeless on the street.

THANK YOU to all who donated baked goods and items to sell. My personal thanks to the members of P.A.L.s who helped and to the women of the Esther Circle for all their hard work.

- Karen Smith



LWML NEWS!

September 14th – 16th is the District Retreat at Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Angola, N.Y. Please see Sharon McGuan for information.

September 29th is the Buffalo Zone Fall Event. Please refer to the flyer insert in this newsletter. Please notify Carol Obot or Sue Holway before Sept. 20th. if you want to attend.



Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited - until you try to get into their pews or their favorite church parking spot.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door for years.

If the church wants a better preacher, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

Jesus does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Peace starts with a smile.

BUFFALO ZONE LWML FALL EVENT

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

10:00 AM TO 1:30 PM

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1230 BOWEN ROAD, ELMA, NY 14059

716 652 2221

REGISTRATION: 9:30 – 10:00

DEVOTION: 10:00 – 10:15

BUSINESS MEETING: 10:15 – 10:45

PROGRAM: 10:45 – 11:30

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? LUKE 10: 29

"DISCOVER YOUR NEIGHBOR ON THE JERICHO ROAD"

SPEAKER: SONDR A DAWES, PROGRAM COORDINATOR,

PRISCILLA PROJECT, AN AFFILIATE OF THE

JERICHO ROAD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, BUFFALO, NY

OUR MISSION OUTREACH PROJECT:

A BABY SHOWER FOR THE PRISCILLA PROJECT

LUNCH: NOON – 1:00 AND CLOSING DEVOTIONS @ 1:00

PLEASE RSVP TO DEE GRZYB @ 716-393-3670 OR d_e_grzyb@msn.com BY SEPTEMBER 20TH.

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE BUFFALO ZONE LWML



THE DUCK AND THE DEVIL

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck.

Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it. He was shocked and grieved.

In a panic, he hid its dead body in the woodpile, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen." Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?" So, Johnny did the dishes.

Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally just smiled and said, "Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So, Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's... he finally couldn't stand it any longer.

He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

- Original author unknown

Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done ... and the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, debt, fear, bad habits, hatred, anger, bitterness, etc.) ... whatever it is ... You need to know that God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing ... He has seen your whole life; He wants you to know that He loves you and that you are forgiven.

He's just wondering how long you will let the devil make a slave of you. The great thing about God is that when you ask for forgiveness, He not only forgives you, but He forgets ... It is by God's grace and mercy that we are saved.

Psalm 139: 1 – 3

John 8: 34 – 36

Hebrews 8: 12

1 John 1: 9



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

Zeigler Accepts Call to Serve as Speaker of The Lutheran Hour

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is pleased to announce that the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler of St. Louis, Missouri, has accepted a call to serve as Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour** radio program. Zeigler succeeds to the microphone following the departure of Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, who accepted a call in 2017 to serve as executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. He will officially begin his ministry with LHM on Oct. 1 and will broadcast his first sermon on Reformation Sunday (Oct. 28).

"We are pleased that the Lord has led us to Rev. Zeigler as the next person to carry on our rich history of proclaiming the Gospel through The Lutheran Hour," says LHM President & CEO Kurt Buchholz. "While we will soon have a new voice behind the microphone, our focus for the program remains the same: proclaiming the clear Gospel message of salvation which comes through Jesus Christ."



"In addition to connecting with people through the traditional methods of radio and in-person events, we look forward to partnering with Rev. Zeigler to utilize the expanding possibilities for sharing the Gospel that are offered by new technologies," says Rev. Dr. Tony Cook, executive director of United States ministries for LHM.

Zeigler has served as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in south St. Louis since August 2014. Prior to that, he was assistant pastor at nearby Timothy Lutheran Church. Before becoming a pastor, he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Air Force.

"While accepting this call means that I must suffer the heartbreak of no longer being pastor to the people of Epiphany, I have the joy of meeting and working alongside wonderful people with Lutheran Hour Ministries," says Zeigler. "The role of Speaker has been held by many distinguished men of God; I am in awe of their work and intend to learn from their example. Despite my own feelings of inadequacy, I step into this role with the confidence that the Lord Himself has called me to share His truth and love with a wider audience. Best of all, this means that I get to know Jesus better and help others know Him, too."

Zeigler grew up in a military family, living throughout the United States, from North Dakota to Alabama and Virginia to Colorado. His family moved 11 times before he finished high school in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in general engineering and served for five years in

the Air Force. He left active duty in 2006 to enter Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he completed a Master of Divinity degree in theological studies and a Ph.D. in doctrinal theology.

He continues to serve part-time as an Air Force Reserve officer and as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary and has previously been a guest lecturer for the Concordia University Network and a ministry leadership course coordinator for Christian Friends of New Americans. He published a book entitled *Christian Hope Among Rivals: How Life-Organizing Stories Anticipate the End of Evil* in 2017 and has written several papers for symposia, circuit meetings, and national conferences. He and his wife, Amy, have four children.

The Lutheran Hour is the world's longest-running Christian radio program and currently airs on more than 1,800 stations throughout North America as well as the American Forces Network. The program reaches more than one million listeners each week and is also available online, through a mobile app, and on various new media platforms.



“Surely he has borne our griefs ...”

When veteran Joe Serna confessed that he'd been drinking — behavior prohibited in the Veterans Treatment Court program — Judge Lou Olivera sentenced him to one night in jail. That might not seem like much, but while deployed, Serna had been trapped underwater when his truck toppled into a canal. A buddy managed to move him to an air pocket, saving his life, but the buddy and two others died. Years later, even the thought of confinement triggered flashbacks.

As Serna arrived for his jail stay, Olivera, also a vet, saw his anxiety, entered the cell with Serna and spent the night. His kind act nearly brought Serna to tears, but the judge believes any vet would have done the same. “These are our brothers,” Olivera says. “We never leave each other behind.”

Similarly, Jesus entered our troubled story alongside us, sharing in our suffering, brokenness and even death. As a comrade unlike any other, Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters, refusing to leave us behind with our self-imposed burdens. Above all, Jesus does what only God can: redeems us for the joy of new life.



Christian Symbol

Seal — A seal is the mark of God's promises to the believer and of the believer's consecration to God. Old Testament priests wore a piece of gold against their forehead, as a seal, engraved with the words “Holy to the Lord.” For Christians, the sign of the cross serves as a seal of salvation. Paul declares, “He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV).

Mystery Scrambles

Can you solve each word scramble puzzle? In each set of scrambled words, one of the words describes a topic. The other seven words are related to that topic.

Mystery Set #1

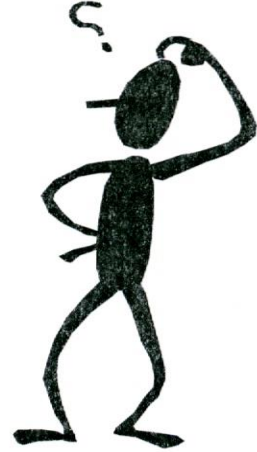
gryfadoln _____
clithreepo _____
broin _____
spaws _____
lagee _____
stunratao _____
thifgl _____
plinpeze _____

Mystery Set #2

drabonabd _____
stewibe _____
aimel _____
acdstop _____
backfoeo _____
nonile _____
treeinnt _____
usriv _____

Mystery Set #3

pricts _____
thigls _____
sheerare _____
coredtir _____
icedeaun _____
macein _____
toscar _____
arceam _____



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**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS SEPTEMBER 23RD.**