



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

MAY 2019

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



Pastor to People

Someone asked me recently, “Are we in the End Times?” My answer was, “I believe we are, but at what point we are in the timeline is hard for me to say.”

Jesus promises us that things will get more difficult for the world in the days preceding His return. There will be “Wars and rumors of war,” famine, earthquakes, increased persecution of believers, and so on. - *Matthew 24*. Followers of Jesus will not be exempt from this tribulation...in fact, much of it will be directed at believers. Jesus bids us to “Carry our cross” and Scripture promises that “Through much tribulation one must enter the kingdom of God.” - *Acts 14:22*

Biblical scholars and other observers dispute as to when the End Times started. Some say at the birth of Jesus. When the year struck 1000 AD., many in Europe thought the end was near. When the year 2000 hit, many feared that planes would fall out of the sky due to computer malfunction.

Wherever we are on the “End Times” timeline, the important thing is that you and I are found believing in Jesus when He comes, or on the day of our death if that comes first. Jesus asked regarding His Second Coming, “Will the Son of Man find faith left on the earth?” - *Luke 18:8*

While the news media and critics of Christianity (and religion in general) like to publicize people dropping out of church, I find that there is also a surge of interest in God, religion, and all things spiritual. People want certainty, not uncertainty. Many of them still know that the Church is the place to find it.

Unfortunately, many of the mainline churches and denominations fail in this task because most of their theologians and pastors no longer believe in the truth and certainty of God's Word. While Jesus calls them “Wolves in sheep's clothing” *Matthew 7:15* and Ezekiel warns us about unfaithful prophets in Chapter 34 of his book, I call them “Atheists in albs.” Many of the clergy in these churches no longer believe in a personal God and deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead and His other miracles.

As I stated earlier, most people want certainty, not uncertainty. They want Biblically-based answers to their questions: Who is God? How do I know He loves me? What happens to me when I die? Why do we suffer? And other important questions. While the Bible doesn't address every issue, faithful shepherds and theologians do their best to apply God's Word to every situation.

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven and promises to return in the same way on the Last Day. May He find us waiting in faith on the Day of His Return.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder





SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

MAY 2019

DATE →	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	
READER	Carolyn Alessi	Tim McGuan	Alec Ruby	Wes Weirs	
USHERS	Jim O'Brien * George Alessi	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tegwanda Alford * Peggy Clark	Scot LaFalce * Traci LaFalce	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric Fellner	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	
NURSERY	Linda Eder	Ruth & Gabby O'Brien	Amber Trimmer	Carol Obot	

Echoes of Easter

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Carolyn Alessi	May 8
Tyrone Bryant	May 9
Jim Miller	May 16
Mark Eder	May 18
Peggy Clark	May 29
Gail Rodgers	May 30

May 11

Rob & Carol Gross

May 17

Frank & Carolyn Alessi



Joys of motherhood



- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our next meeting is Monday, May 13th, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. We will be discussing the Pot Faith for May and the Bake Sale scheduled for Saturday, June 15th.

The Pot Faith will be on Sunday, May 19th. We will continue to ask for donations to the Food Pantry operated by Hananiah Lutheran Church in Buffalo. During this time, we will also congratulate Alec Ruby and his family. Alec is graduating from the University of Buffalo on May 18th. He has been faithfully attending Pilgrim and has participated as a song leader during Communion distribution. Come and bring a dish to pass! A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

REMINDER! Used stamps trimmed with a quarter inch border can be given to Pat Watkins. These stamps are used for a mission project that provides Bibles to prisoners. Karen Smith will accept your "mites" (pennies and other change) for LWML mission grants. Check the bulletin board to see what projects have been funded by the "mites". Sue Holway will collect your Dash's Grocery receipts.

LWML NEWS: The Esther Circle has been invited by the Niagara Zone to attend their Spring Gathering on Saturday, May 18th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 67 Saxton Street, Lockport, NY from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is \$5.00. The program information has been sent out to Esther Circle members. Contact Carol Obot by May 6th if you plan to attend.

Blessings to all the mothers!

- Carol Obot & Sue Holway



Upcoming LWML dates to remember:

June 20-23, 2019: National LWML Convention, Mobile, Alabama. Please pray for the convention and those attending.

August 11, 2019: Buffalo Zone Picnic at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center

September 20 - 22, 2019: LWML Eastern District Retreat at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center.

Speaker: Katie Schuermann Theme: "Listen, Look, Leap" based on Proverbs 3: 5-6

The registration form will be in the Spring LINK

September 28, 2019: Buffalo Zone Fall Event 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Registration \$10 at First Trinity Lutheran Church. Topic: "Equipping Women for Service" Darlene Marcucci-Miller will be our speaker

June 12-14, 2020: Eastern District LWML Convention Syracuse, NY Theme: "Live By Faith" based on 2 Corinthians 5:6-7



The P.A.L.s (Pilgrim Active Laymen) will meet on Saturday, May 18th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us.



Please join us on Sunday, May 19th, as we gather to celebrate Alec Ruby's graduation from college and extend God's blessings to him upon his move to Reno, Nevada for an internship.



Healing hospitality

Repeated headlines about violence can make us “feel like locking our doors and never entering society again,” writes pastor and author Max Lucado. After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

“It’s no accident that *hospitality* and *hospital* come from the same Latin word,” Lucado writes, “for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: ‘You matter.’”

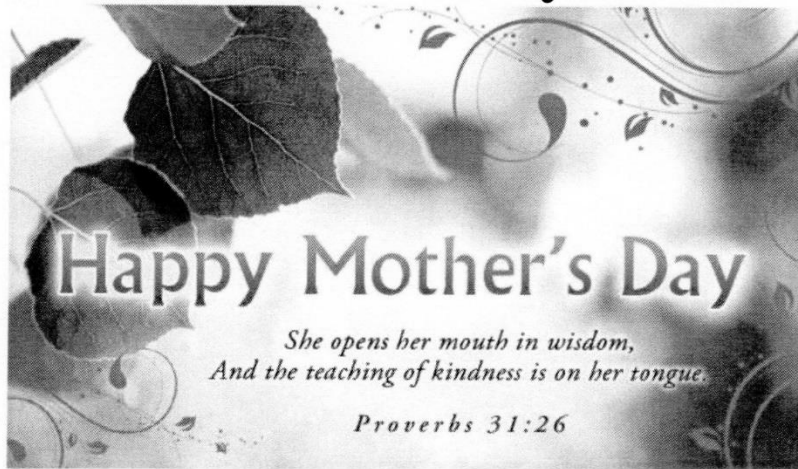
Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado contends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, “and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon.”

Our kitchen tables are “God’s secret weapons in the war on fear,” Lucado says. “We never know what one meal will do.”

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

44 Chapel Road ~ Kenmore, NY 14217

FREE Community Dinner

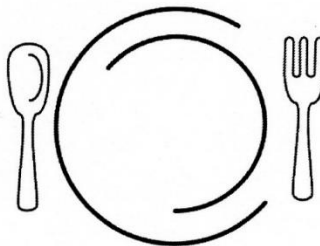


Please join us for our monthly Community Dinner
Corner of Delaware and Chapel Roads

Friday, May 3rd 2019 at 5pm-7pm

Our Menu

Roasted Chicken Thighs
Vegetable
Salad & Roll w/butter
Assorted desserts and beverages



*The mission of Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to seek out the lost and bring them the Good News
Of Jesus Christ, with the anticipation that those who hear will come to faith.*

Services Saturday evening @ 5:30pm and Sunday morning @ 10am





LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

Dimitry was not a Christian. As a prisoner in Russia, his circumstances were dim. Racked with torment, unable to find peace, he pleaded his case before God. Soon after, God used Lutheran Hour Ministries' Bible Correspondence Courses to introduce him to Christ's forgiveness. Dimitry believes the material was God's answer to prayer.

"These lessons helped me to know about the Christian faith," Dimitry says. "Reading through these materials, I began thinking and meditating and—what's even more important—I began applying Christ's teaching and God's will to my own life." He appreciated the structure of the Bible Correspondence Course lessons, which help students grow in their faith and give them a chance to contemplate the depth of what they learn.

Today, Dimitry understands that Jesus Christ is the sovereign Lord of his heart.

"I want to begin a new life—the life with Christ—and this life is the eternal one," he says. "I am not separated from God now. As soon as I am released from prison, I'll come to church. No matter what people might say, I am a Christian, for there is one God and Christ is my Lord! May His name be hallowed forever!"

Angalia is 24 years old. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya, where she makes her living selling secondhand clothes. But her former way of life was much different.

Like too many young Kenyan women, Angalia turned to prostitution to survive. Not only did that career prove insufficient to pay her monthly bills, it left her feeling guilty. She distanced herself from attending church as she had during childhood. Now she felt unworthy of returning.

One day, during a chance encounter, someone invited Angalia to a monthly fellowship activity hosted by LHM—Kenya. She continued to attend. After several visits, she felt the Lord nudging her to separate herself from prostitution.

Angalia participated in Reaching Rahab, an LHM program that helps young women escape prostitution through vocational training. Soon she had the skills she needed to run her own small secondhand clothing business, her current endeavor. She also completed our Bible Correspondence Courses, which helped her mature in her rediscovered faith.

"I am happy that God by his grace has saved and transformed my life," Angalia says. "My family has accepted me back, and now I have a sense of acceptance and belonging."

Your prayers and [giving](#) enable LHM to share Christ's comfort with individuals like Angalia - in Kenya, the US, and around the globe!

Bible Word Search: APOSTLES / DISCIPLES

B J N K F D E A Z T E T G D M
Y A T O S K L M W H D H K D S
M S R I O P S E X A I O F S K
S P M T H Z H P H D E M T F B
O O C A H T Y V X D E A N H W
N N E T T O D J I A D S S E P
S U R A R P L P R E E C U Y M
S A M B I H H O X U B U H A G
T O I R A C S I M S E L P T L
T T N H S O Z F L E Z N U S B
N L U M T P L I R I W A L A T
H R J Q T T Z I A D P Q B X P
N H O J G C A N D R E W R M W
U M W J F J W M R R D J D W F
H X Y S U S W L P K R O R E P

SIMON Peter
JOHN
THOMAS
THADDAEUS
MATTHIAS

ANDREW
PHILIP
MATTHEW
SIMON
PAUL

James ZEBEDEE
BARTHOLOMEW
James ALPHAEUS
Judas ISCARIOT

Instructions:

Find and circle the words shown in all capital letters. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

After Judas betrayed Christ, Matthias was chosen by the disciples to take his place. Saul (who changed his name to Paul) was chosen by Jesus. (Acts 9:3-6). The apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4.

Source: Bible Book of Lists at SusanCAnthony.com

© Memory-Improvement-Tips.com

You may copy & distribute this word search without restriction as long as this copyright notice remains in place.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE
NEWSLETTER IS MAY 26TH.**

Bible Word Search: APOSTLES / DISCIPLES

B J N K F D E A Z T E T G D M
Y A T O S K L M W H D H K D S
M S R I O P S E X A I O F S K
S P M T H Z H P H D E M T F B
O O C A H T Y V X D E A N H W
N N E T T O D J I A D S S E P
S U R A R P L P R E E C U Y M
S A M B I H H O X U B U H A G
T O I R A C S I M S E L P T L
T T N H S O Z F L E Z N U S B
N L U M T P L I R I W A L A T
H R J Q T T Z I A D P Q B X P
N H O J G C A N D R E W R M W
U M W J F J W M R R D J D W F
H X Y S U S W L P K R O R E P

SIMON Peter
JOHN
THOMAS
THADDAEUS
MATTHIAS

ANDREW
PHILIP
MATTHEW
SIMON
PAUL

James ZEBEDEE
BARTHOLOMEW
James ALPHAEUS
Judas ISCARIOT

Instructions:

Find and circle the words shown in all capital letters. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

After Judas betrayed Christ, Matthias was chosen by the disciples to take his place. Saul (who changed his name to Paul) was chosen by Jesus. (Acts 9:3-6). The apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4.

Source: Bible Book of Lists at SusanCAnthony.com

© Memory-Improvement-Tips.com

You may copy & distribute this word search without restriction as long as this copyright notice remains in place.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE
NEWSLETTER IS MAY 26TH.**