



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

NOVEMBER 2019

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

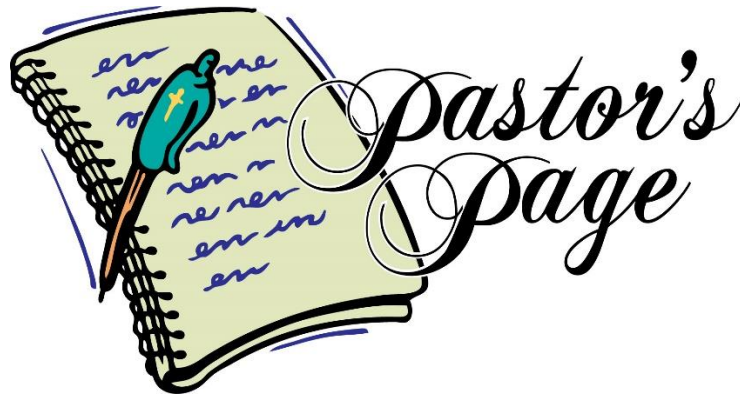
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." – Psalm 116:15

Since November 1st is "All Saints' Day," I thought I would take this opportunity to talk about the Christian view of death and dying. By my own conservative estimate, I have presided over 200 funerals, perhaps even more (counting those in the community). I have seen several Christians die. In that respect, I'm something of an authority on the subject (as are most pastors).

The Christian view of death and dying is very different from that of our secular culture; it differs even from that of other religions which also have teachings on the afterlife. In the Christian faith, particularly in Lutheranism, we take the assurance of salvation for those who die believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior. When our loved ones die, especially those in the Christian faith, we are understandably saddened by the departure of our loved one, but we are also heartened by the knowledge that one day we shall see them again. Jesus proclaims that God is not the "God of the dead, but of the living." – Mark 12:27

Our secular, non-religious culture has a far different viewpoint. Some hope that there is some kind of existence after death, but they're not sure what it is or how we get there. For many, funerals are eulogies of the deceased, not a proclamation of our hope that is in Christ. Some even have the attitude that if their loved one is in Hell, it is a "fun place to be" and "we'll party when we get there." The Apostle Paul himself summed up this attitude when he said of that culture "let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die." - 1 Corinthians 15:32b

As we observe "All Saints' Day," we give thanks to God for all the saints of past, present, and future whose ultimate hope is in the Lord. Those who have died before us are in heaven now, waiting for us to get there. On the Day of Jesus' Second Coming, there will be a resurrection of the "just and the unjust," with the "just" being reunited with their souls in a "new heaven and a new earth." – Revelation 21:1, et al. What form this eternal paradise will take is unclear to us, yet we know that it is a place of bliss without sin and the problems sin causes (sickness, tragedy, grief, death, and so on). Our reconstituted bodies will be spiritual bodies, not bodies of flesh and blood.

The Bible doesn't say all that much about life in paradise; however, it has a lot to say about (1) the blissful conditions there and (2) how to get there. Jesus declares himself to be "the way" to the Father; he has gone before us to prepare a place for all who believe in him. In the meantime, we live our earthly lives in faithful service until we hear the last trumpet call. – 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2019

DATE ➡	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	
READER	Wes Wiers	Scot LaFalce	Abigail Size	Mary Werth	
USHERS	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Dianne Weurch * Mike Weurch	George Alessi * Jim O'Brien	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	Gary Smith	
NURSERY	Carol Obot	Carolyn Alessi	Peggy Clark	Linda Eder	



“A little child will lead them”

Isaiah 11 prophesies hope for the world: wisdom, understanding, righteousness, justice, faithfulness, peace. In the words “a little child will lead them” (v. 6), Christians hear a foretelling of God’s coming to earth as the child Jesus. Today, children — Jesus’ examples of fitness for God’s kingdom (Mark 10:14) — often lead in showing love.

At age 11, avid baker Michael Platt opened a pastry shop in Maryland to benefit homeless people; for desserts sold, he gives an equal number to shelter residents. Eric Schubert, 18, of New Jersey, uses his genealogy research skills to help strangers — more than 1,000 so far — find long-lost family. In Pennsylvania, Neijae Graham-Henries became a certified barber at age 7 to give free haircuts to kids who couldn’t afford them. (Stories shared on GoodNewsNetwork.org.)

May these children inspire us to use our passions and skills for good, in the name of the Christ-child, who grew up and taught us to serve others in love.



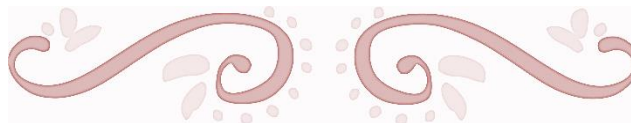
Loretta Himmele

Nov. 1



Nov. 12

Abigail & Kevin Size



Learning to give thanks

Last December I had my second knee replacement. Expecting this recovery to mimic the first, I went home to heal quickly. Instead, 10 days later one normal step led to the vertical splitting of my femur, an ambulance ride and surgery to insert screws and a long metal plate. I spent Christmas in the hospital and New Year's in a rehab unit, feeling anything but thankful. Nearly a year later, the slow recovery continues.

Yet I see much to be thankful for: my caregiver cousin, who lengthened her stay considerably; my family; church friends who provided meals, prayers and love; and doctors and therapists, who put me back together and continue to encourage me.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to work on patience but am learning — with God's help — to “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

—Sandy Hyland



ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle collection of soup and crackers will continue until November 17th. Thanks for the donations already contributed, and please continue to support this project to help feed those in need in our community. The items collected are taken to Kenmore Presbyterian Church for distribution in this community. Their food pantry is open on the second Saturday of the month, 9-11 a.m., and the last Thursday of the month, 12 noon to 2 pm.

To support our contributions to church and community charities, we are also conducting a sale of nuts and candy. More information is in the flyer printed in this newsletter.

Please remember to bring your mites to Karen Smith, your Dash's receipts to Sue Holway, and used stamps and used printer cartridges to Pat Watkins. All are given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) for missionary projects in the US and around the world.

Our November meeting is on the 11th, which is Veterans Day. Let us all remember our nation's heroes, thank them for their service, and pray for their well-being.

And looking ahead, we will conduct a cookie exchange at the December 9 meeting. We also hope to have a speaker from Hananiah Lutheran Church that evening. Your coffee hour and Pot Faith donations support their ministry in Buffalo.

Lastly, but importantly, let us celebrate Thanksgiving with a heart full of gratitude to our Lord for the blessings of salvation, freedom, and family and friends.

Carol Obot and Sue Holway



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

A graphic of a musical staff with three blue notes (a quarter note, an eighth note, and a sixteenth note) on the left and right sides. The title "A MUSIC NOTE" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the staff.

A MUSIC NOTE

In last month's copy of the newsletter, Martin Luther was quoted about singing and its importance. He wrote several hymns and on Reformation Sunday we sing probably the most well-known of Luther's hymns, A Mighty Fortress is Our God. Singing is mentioned throughout the Bible - especially singing psalms and praises unto God. The Israelites along with Moses sang a song mentioned in Exodus 15. The disciples sang psalms after the Lord's supper (Matthew 26:30). So, it is easy to connect how singing hymns has become part of worship services down through the ages.

In the modern age, one of the first hymns used by Lutherans in the Missouri Synod was published' around 1847: "We have chosen the hymnal with much effort and with much sighing. God grant that it is worthy to be used by the communion of believers!" says C.F.W. Walther who was instrumental in its development.

He further writes: "As far as the recorded hymns are concerned, the fact that they are pure in doctrine, that they have already found as general a reception as possible in the orthodox German-Lutheran Church, and that they have thus received as unanimous a testimony as possible that they have flowed from the right spirit, has been taken into consideration in the selection of these hymns.... The editors have been vividly aware of the great task they had to accomplish; they have desponded entirely of their own wisdom and called upon God earnestly for His Holy Spirit's enlightenment and government and especially for the gift of testing and discerning the spirits; you can be assured that they have worked with fear and trembling and have chosen only those hymns from the immense treasure that the Christian Church possesses of German songs..." [Translation of Walther's writings in [Der Lutheraner from the year 1847, p. 48\(?\)](#).]

I don't know about you but reading about what has gone into hymn selection for our hymnbook makes me appreciate the hymn that much more. In next month's newsletter I will write about an Advent Hymn; and yes, it's in our hymnal.

Musically Yours,
Ruth Whitmer



FYI: The following profiles were originally published in the February and October 2004 issues of the newsletter.



PILGRIM PROFILES



On Sunday morning, the third or fourth pew from the left front of the church is usually occupied by Ruth and Harvey Caldwell and Naomi George. Ruth and Naomi have been attending services at Pilgrim continuously since May of 1928 when their father Rev. Frank Schwarz brought his wife Esther and their children to Kenmore to become the second pastor of Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church.

For Ruth and Naomi, life has always centered around their own families and their church family. Their dad was a Rotarian, chaplain of the Fire Department, and an avid fan of Kenmore High School sports. Mrs. Schwarz nearly lived at the church, with Sunday School, Ladies Aid (later named Esther Circle in her honor), choir, her secretarial duties, and church dinners and activities. The children often "came home" to church after their day at school. Both Pastor and Mrs. Schwarz followed in the tradition of church service taught them by their parents. They in turn instilled their work ethic and love service in their five children. During the depression, Ruth and her brother Frank delivered their wagon full of home-baked goods to church families on Saturday mornings. Naomi walked with her dad many times on his errands around town, later running those errands for him.

Both Ruth and Naomi participated in Youth Group, taught Sunday School, and sang in the choir. Naomi played the piano for the primary Sunday School classes. When her father preached at the Wheel Chair Home, she accompanied him to play piano for the residents. When asked if it was hard being the pastor's children, Ruth and Naomi agreed the teen-age years were the most difficult. "Watch what you say." "Be careful where you go." "Don't go into any place that serves liquor. Even though you have water, someone may think it isn't." "Don't go out with any Catholic boys." Having to set a good example wasn't always easy!

Harvey Caldwell entered the picture in 1940. He had grown up on a farm in South Dakota, next door to a church where he stoked up the fire on Sunday morning before service. At age 19, he came to Buffalo to work at Bell Aircraft. Harvey's cousin regularly attended Pilgrim, and on Christmas Day in 1940, Pastor Schwarz invited him to come to their home for Christmas dinner. He asked if he could bring Harvey along, and the rest, as they say, is history. Ruth and Harvey dated for two years. Before they became engaged, Harvey was baptized and confirmed by Pastor Schwarz as a surprise for Ruth. He joined Pilgrim at that time and their wedding and reception were held here at Pilgrim in 1942. Harvey served in WWII in the Seabees from 1944-1946. Returning to Bell, Harvey was an assembler, riveter, and assistant foreman, retiring at age 61. When Bell would have slow times and lay offs, he worked at several other jobs—at a gas station, the Firestone store, and a tool and die company.

Naomi and Bill George had dated through high school. Naomi worked at National Gypsum before they were married, and Bill started at Bell Aircraft in 1940. He left for the service in 1943 and returned to Bell after his service. He was Manager of Finances and retired from Bell after 44 years. Bill and Naomi were married in 1945, and they enjoyed 56 years of marriage before Bill passed away two and one-half years ago.

In 2001, Pilgrim presented a plaque to Harvey and Ruth Caldwell and Bill and Naomi George to recognize their many years of service. Harvey and Ruth have shoveled walks, cut grass, made the coffee, maintained the supply of candles, wine, bread, and memorial cards, and changed the signboard for many years. Harvey has served as Financial Secretary and on the House Committee with Herb Mohr, later heading the House Committee for years. He has replaced parts of the basement floor and ceiling, the iron railing, and countless lightbulbs. Although he was a riveter, assembler, and assistant foreman at Bell, he enjoyed woodworking as a hobby, and could do almost anything. Whenever the Church Council would have questions regarding the building, the solution was always, "Ask Harv. He'll know."

Bill George, whose family also joined Pilgrim when he and Naomi were married, was often an officer on the Church Council. He was president and treasurer repeatedly and also headed many committees. When an event needed to be organized or a big project needed to be implemented and funded, Bill was right there to handle it. Naomi has been active as an officer of Esther Circle, laundering robes for acolytes and choir, cleaning the kitchen when needed, and delivering mail to shut-ins.

Bill and Naomi raised two daughters in Kenmore. Linda and her family live in Oklahoma, where Linda is an RN Manager, Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit. Linda's two daughters are graduates of Oklahoma State. Susan, a medical transcriptionist, and her family are in Indiana, where her married son is a teacher and her daughter is a student at Indiana. Ruth and Harvey have two sons, both graduates of Valparaiso University. Roger lives in Maryland and is employed at Johns Hopkins as a project manager for Tomahawk and naval aerial targets. Brian has retired from his state position in Maryland and is now an adjuster with Progressive Insurance in Texas. He and his wife have two married children.

Ruth and Harvey, however, have many other "children." After World War II, the Lutheran Service Society in Buffalo put out a call for foster parents. Fran Kaufmann was the first to respond. Pastor and Mrs. Schwarz also took in children awaiting adoption. Harvey and Ruth had to wait until their youngest, Brian, was 3 years old, so in 1950 they began foster parenthood. Over 30 years, they cared for many babies, sometimes four at a time. Children were numbered to keep their identity secret, but Ruth always gave her children names. At 8 months, after all tests were completed, the babies were eligible for adoption. Ruth recalled two very emotional 14-month-old twins. The boy was a head-banger and needed a padded crib for his protection. While he was banging his head, his sister would be screaming. Under Ruth and Harv's care and patient discipline, the twins settled down and became adoptable. Sometimes Ruth and Harv knew the parents who adopted their babies, and they have seen some of their foster children as they have grown into adulthood. One girl, the granddaughter of the Lutheran Service Society social worker, stayed with Ruth and Harv every day from 10 months of age until graduation from school. Harvey escorted her to father-daughter events and eventually walked her down the aisle at her wedding.

Over the years, both couples were active in church activities. Pilgrim reached its largest size, nearly 300 members, in the 40's and 50's when Kenmore experienced a post-war building boom. When asked to look back at Pilgrim's history, Ruth and Naomi both recalled the burning of the mortgage as the most memorable event. This occurred after the depression, and their younger brother held the bowl in which the mortgage was burned here in the chancel.

However, Ruth, Naomi, and Harvey are busy looking ahead rather than back. Naomi has become Pilgrim's bus, providing rides to doctor appointments, driving people shopping, and helping out wherever there is a need. Harvey, Ruth, and Naomi continue to serve our congregation: making the coffee, helping with maintenance, greeting guests, ushering and serving Communion. Pilgrim is truly blessed to have such active faithful servants.



Increasing Your Faith-Sharing Ability Is Possible!

Lutheran Hour Ministries has a great read for those wanting to empower their witness. New from InterVarsity Press is *The Reluctant Witness: Discovering the Delight of Spiritual Conversations*. Written by Lutheran Hour Ministries' Content Development Manager Don Everts, this book examines why we speak less these days about Jesus—and gives hope for what we can do to improve the situation.

Drawing from ample research gathered by Barna Group, *The Reluctant Witness* takes an honest look at the state of our conversations about faith and God. Throughout the book, Everts weaves loads of data into an easy-to-read narrative to form a compelling whole. He gives the reader vital insights into why things are as they are and offers much-needed encouragement on how they can be different when we talk about Jesus.

Early in life Everts simply assumed that spiritual conversations were going to be difficult at best. But his surprising—and sometimes embarrassing—stories affirm what Scripture and the latest research reveal: spiritual conversations can actually be a delight, a real joy. Readers will come away with a fresh grasp of the possibilities of talking about their faith and will appreciate the best practices offered on how to become an eager conversationalist.

You can get a copy of this book for \$15. To do that and to check out the other Barna-based resources LHM has available, just [click here](#) for more information.

Radio That's More Than Just Music to Your Ears

You can go to SENT Radio to hear sermons from past Speakers for **The Lutheran Hour**. Messages from Revs. Oswald Hoffmann, Dale Meyer, Wallace Schulz, Ken Klaus, and Gregory Seltz are currently being aired. Biographic intros of these Speakers give listeners background on the life and ministry of these individuals. Each Speaker faithfully proclaims God's love and encourages listeners to consider the claims of Jesus as Lord and Redeemer.

Here you'll also find Scripture readings, hymns, instrumentals, and vocal music. Morning prayers and evening vespers can be heard daily at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. respectively. On Sundays, the current sermon by Speaker Rev. Michael Zeigler airs at 7 and 9:30 a.m., noon, and again at 2:30 p.m.

You can find SENT Radio by [clicking here](#).

"Making SENT Radio available to the public right now comes at an excellent time for Lutheran Hour Ministries," said Dr. Tony Cook, vice president for Global Ministries. "The sheer volume of teaching, devotional, and education materials LHM has produced through its long history *should* be available to the public. Our mission from the start has been to edify the community of believers while reaching out to those on the periphery who do not yet know Christ. SENT Radio strengthens LHM's position as a global leader in sharing the Gospel and empowering people to share their faith with others."



Christmas Shoppers: Amazon Will Donate to the Ministry!

Do you shop on Amazon at Christmas (or *any* time of year)? Your purchases can help support the ministry—without costing an extra cent. With the Amazon Smile program, each time you make a qualified purchase, Amazon will donate a portion of its profit to Lutheran Hour Ministries.

It's open to all Amazon customers. You can sign up in 3 easy steps:

1. Go to **smile.amazon.com** (NOT **www.amazon.com**) and log in like usual.
2. When asked which charity, type **Lutheran Hour Ministries** into the search box and select it in the results.
3. Start shopping!

You must enter through **smile.amazon.com** each time for the donation to occur. It's another way to help fund Gospel outreach! Thanks for your support. ♦



A much-needed message

National Bible Week, now observed every Thanksgiving week, got its start on a turbulent day. Founders of the National Bible Association were reading Scripture over the NBC radio network on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Because of the traumatic events, the network asked that the Bible-reading continue all day, in between news updates. Radio stations throughout America picked up the programming, allowing countless listeners to receive words from God — “who comforts you” (Isaiah 51:12) — when they needed it most.

Honor our veterans

Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.

A Veterans Day prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

—Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

Always thankful

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years' War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including "Now Thank We All Our God." Originally intended as a table prayer, it's now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God's "countless gifts of love" — even during hardships.

Song of thanksgiving

After retiring from the ministry in England, the Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) became a prolific hymn writer. Some people have compared his talents to those of Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist Church.

Green's popular Thanksgiving hymn "For the Fruits of His Creation" calls worshipers to move beyond gratitude to their responsibilities for other people and for God's creation. The hymn's closing lines sum up why Christians can give thanks throughout the year: "For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God."

Soup & Crackers

Esther Circle is Collecting Soup and Crackers for the
Food Pantry at Kenmore Presbyterian Church
2771 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217

A drop off tote will be in the back of the church for your
donations.

Any Kind & Size Can of Soup or Box of Crackers!

Please make sure food items are not outdated.

Collecting from October 20th to November 17th

Thank you



**Esther Circle is sponsoring a Fall Fundraiser
for anyone who wishes to participate**
Profits will benefit our End of the Year Charities.



Our premium nuts, dried fruits, and candy are unlike anything you'll find at a typical grocery or convenience store. With products that range from Dark Chocolate Cranberries to Giant Pecans to Deluxe Mixed Nuts.

If you are interested in helping to sell or simply place an order, please see Dianne Wuerch after church service.

A great gift for Christmas!!

Brochures are in the back of the church.

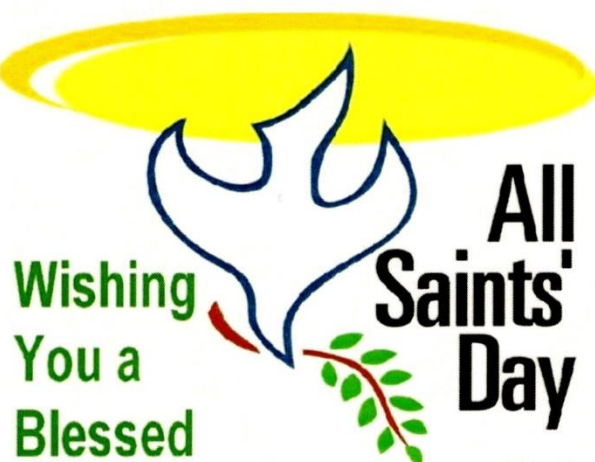
Sale Starts October 14th

Sale Ends November 17th

All money must be handed in with Order Form.

Thank You
Esther Circle

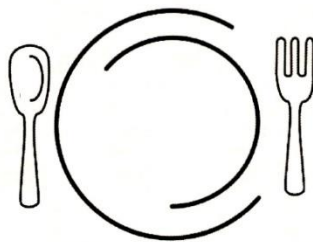
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
FREE Community Dinner



Please join us for our monthly Community Dinner
Corner of Delaware and Chapel Roads
Friday, November 1st, 2019 at 5pm-7pm

Our Menu

Ham
Mashed Potatoes w/gravy
Vegetable
Tossed salad
Bread and 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
Everyone is Welcome!

GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for

Orange: a gift you've received

Yellow: something you've recently learned

Green: something in nature

Blue: a special memory

Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!



A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time
I remember you." Philippians 1:3

Hannah

"My soul glorifies the Lord and
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."
Luke 1:46-47

David

"He is my God, and I will praise
him, my father's God, and I will
exalt him." Exodus 15:2

Mary

"My heart rejoices in the LORD."
1 Samuel 2:1

Paul

"I will praise God's name in song
and glorify him with thanksgiving."
Psalm 69:30

Moses

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses;
1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 24TH.**