



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

SEPTEMBER 2019

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

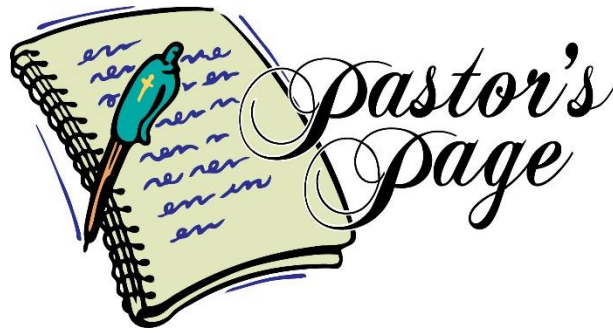
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





September is the month when summer comes to a close and the pace of the church year picks up. If you take a look at this month's church calendar (enclosed with this newsletter), you'll see what I mean.

There is a time for prayer and meditating on God's Word, and there is a time for action. This is particularly true after a season of rest or even after a dry or difficult season in our lives.

The prophet of Elijah had just destroyed 450 of the false prophets of Baal (it was God's doing, but He used Elijah as His instrument). Not surprisingly, Queen Jezebel and King Ahab were upset by this and marked Elijah for death. On the run, Elijah lay down in despair and prepared to die. In response, God feeds him and tells Elijah to "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 1 Kings 19:7

Not only did God feed Elijah for the journey, He also gave the prophet things to do:

15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him." - 2 Kings 9:15-18

The LORD nourished Elijah's body and also his soul. God gave him encouragement in the midst of his despair – He announced to Elijah that there are still 7000 in Israel who believe, whose "knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

It is essential for those who follow the LORD to know that there are still many who believe and follow Him as we do: we are not alone. Also, God continues to give us things to do in His service and in His name.

Rather than dwelling on how bad things are – either in our lives or in the world – let us draw upon the nourishment that God provides through His Word and Sacraments. We still have things to do in Jesus' name: to share His Good News and lavish His love upon our neighbor in need.

The season of rest is over; the time for action is at hand. Let's get up and get moving!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2019

DATE ➡	Sep. 1	Sep. 8	Sep. 15	Sep. 22	Sep. 29
READER	Mary Werth	Sue Holway	Gary Smith	Tyrone Bryant	Karen Smith
USHERS	Dianne Weurch * Mike Weurch	George Alessi * Jim O'Brien	Scot LaFalce * Traci LaFalce	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Gary Smith	Eric Fellner	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien
NURSERY	Ruth & Gabby O'Brien	Peggy Clark	Linda Eder	Carolyn Alessi	Carol Obot



Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!



Lee Fellner	Sept. 13
Cheryl Miller	Sept. 16
Harvey Caldow	Sept. 20
Alan Kornacki	Sept. 26



Sept. 1	Rev. Ben & Linda Eder
Sept. 9	Bryan & Sarah Hinterberger



LifeTouch will be taking pictures for our new church directory on **Tuesday, September 17th and Wednesday, September 18th from 2 to 9 p.m.** in the fellowship hall of the church. Individuals and/or families will be asked to sign up at ten-minute intervals. Most of you have received the email link. For further information, please contact Jim Hartz (Email: jdhartz@roadrunner.com, Phone: 716-605-0365) or Kathy Farkas (Phone: 716-609-0565).



AUGUST 16, 2019

With the recent establishment of the North America region as part of its global mission, Lutheran Hour Ministries has brought Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies onboard as regional director for North America to provide leadership and operational management for ministry efforts in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. border area with Mexico. He was officially installed during an LHM staff chapel service on Aug. 15.

His work is centered around proclaiming the Gospel to significant numbers of non-churched people, effectively using mass media to spread the Gospel, and helping the church become more outreach focused by empowering it to share the Gospel at more personal levels. He oversees a newly formed group of Regional Ministry Facilitators (RMF) that serve as coaches across North America on behalf of LHM's growing constituency and the overwhelming demand we are experiencing to bring expertise to individuals and groups as they are equipped and encouraged to share their faith with others.

Lakies regularly speaks at national and international conferences for pastors and church professionals and has been published in several journals on the topic of faith and culture. His former life as a non-believer provides exceedingly relevant experience for thinking about how to engage with our friends and neighbors outside the Kingdom of God.

He most recently served as department chair and associate professor of religion at Concordia University, Portland (one of the most secular cities in North America). Before joining the Concordia University staff in 2012, Lakies was involved in church planting in St. Louis (Christ in the City/CRAVE Coffeehouse), and subsequently served as a worship director there until 2010. Later, he founded a collective for young adults at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, Missouri.



ESTHER CIRCLE

We had a relaxing and reflective meeting in August along the Niagara River in Niawanda Park. Our September meeting is Mon. the 9th, at 6:30 pm at the church. All women are invited! Sunday, Sept. 22nd, is a Pot Faith Meal at the church after the service.

The 4th Sunday of the month, the Esther Circle provides refreshments during coffee hour. This year's collection on these Sundays and at the Pot Faith meals is going to Hananiah Lutheran Church's Food Pantry.

Your continued support is appreciated. Thank You!

REMINDER! Used stamps trimmed with a quarter inch border and old printer cartridges can be given to Pat Watkins. The stamps are used for a mission project that provides Bibles to prisoners. The money from the ink cartridges is used for various mission projects. Karen Smith will accept your "mites" (pennies and other change) for LWML mission projects. Sue Holway will collect your Dash's grocery receipts.

God Bless! Carol Obot & Sue Holway

UPCOMING LWML DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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Our Community Dinner will be held on Friday, September 6th, from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu is roasted chicken thighs, potato salad, baked beans, salad with roll and butter and assorted desserts and beverages.

VBS WAS A HIT!

Pilgrim was bursting with the excitement of 24 children at the “Camp Discovery” VBS in August. There was an eagerness to learn how Jesus works through us! The Zoo Mobile came on the last evening with exotic animals from all over the world. Thank you to everyone who helped in the success of VBS!

Bless you all!

- Carol Obot





The P.A.L. (Pilgrim Active Laymen) will meet on Saturday, September 21st, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us.



This is my very first submission to the newsletter! I'm excited to be writing a music-related piece for the Pilgrim Newsletter. This month ushers in my fifth year as church musician and I have become accustomed to the hymns and liturgy of the LCMS. I grew up with hymns and love them, so being able to play them on a weekly basis is one of my favorite things to do.

Going forward, my music entries for the newsletter will include general pieces on church music, music related to the liturgical structure of Lutheranism, hymns and their backgrounds and much more. Some of the submissions will require research and I'll be learning something new, too, and sharing it with you. Also, I plan to have some surprise "guest" pieces from individuals with expertise in some of the areas mentioned. I'm hoping you'll like hearing about all the various aspects of church music ministry.

Since many of you do not know me well, let me share a tiny bit of my background. Growing up in a pastor's home, I started learning piano at a young age, and when I was about 12 began playing for church services. I switched to organ around the age of 15 to try to be different than my sisters who both played piano, too. Studying music, specifically church music, continued for me through college and my undergraduate minor is music (voice and organ). Music to me is therapy and beauty and so much more. Anyway, that's enough about me.

As I write this, we've been talking about the choir that begins soon. I ordered some impressive music, not too difficult, I think. I hope you'll join me in this new endeavor, if not as a choir member, then in cheering us on!

- Ruth Whitmer



Ready to start school on September 8, 2003, five-year-old Aleisha Sargeant put on her best dress in preparation for the battle of a lifetime. Aleisha would soon face the daily challenge of good versus evil, education versus ignorance, and opportunities versus missed choices. For children in poverty, like Aleisha, and the teacher hoping to make a difference in her life, the fight for literacy offers few second chances.

Since the establishment of reading achievement examinations, at-risk children from Buffalo and across the country have consistently performed poorly. According to federal guidelines, approximately 80% of the children in Buffalo live in poverty; our city's ranking is third highest in the nation. It is not surprising that children such as Aleisha fall victim to an achievement gap. They are at the greatest risk for school failure. The irony for these children is that they go to schools with the most limited resources. They are often prohibited from taking their books home, due, for instance, to the high cost of textbook replacement. For children like Aleisha, who live in poverty and attend such a school, chances to be successful soon begin to dwindle.

Project FLIGHT learned about Aleisha's plight in an email written by a teacher from her home at 5:00 am:

"I am a teacher on the East Side of Buffalo. We care so much about our children, but we are having a hard time meeting the standards for many reasons. One of our biggest concerns is lack of any materials for the children to read. Last night, one of the fourth-grade teachers was nearly in tears because her children are so far behind. How do you teach reading when there's nothing to read? (She does have Macmillan for the fourth-grade level, but her children cannot read at this level.)

It isn't a matter of intelligence either. They have no preparation; they've never been read to. We just need to take them through the process. I told her I would talk to you. I am more than willing to do anything I can to help her children.

Just point me in the right direction. Thanks for your time. I'm keeping my fingers crossed on this one."

The dimensions of Aleisha's portrait become tragic as one contemplates the stark future for which she is positioned. Researchers agree that educational attainment is one of the strongest predictors of an individual's success. As reported by Rod Watson, of the Buffalo News, (November 20, 2003) "...according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), kids with lots of books typically score 25% to 30% higher than their peers." One of Project FLIGHT's assumptions is that first, one learns to read; then, one reads to learn. But, how do our children learn to read when they have limited access to books in the home and at school?

Within 48 hours, Project FLIGHT had delivered 100 books to every single classroom in the school, not just the fourth grades, but to all grades, for a total of 12,000 books. Project FLIGHT's commitment to helping underprivileged children and families was known to this teacher. In fact, not only has immediate help been given to this school but to many other parents, teachers, and school districts served by Project FLIGHT for over 25 years.

www.projectflight.org



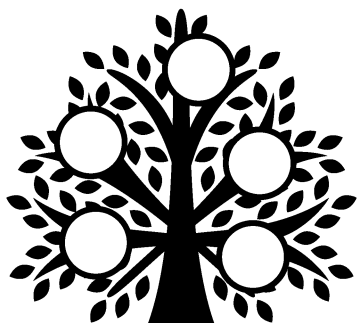
Just do it!

A young man told a pastor he wanted to be a Christian, so the pastor instructed him to prepare by reading the book of Acts. After many weeks went by, the pastor wondered if the man had changed his mind about this important decision.

Almost a year later, he finally reappeared. "Where have you been?" asked the bewildered pastor.

The man replied, "Every time I started to read, I felt prompted to do something like the apostles did: help the poor, tell someone about Jesus. So, I stopped reading and started doing. I've just been too busy to return."

—Adapted from a story by Hal Brady



GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

What you need:

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

What you do:

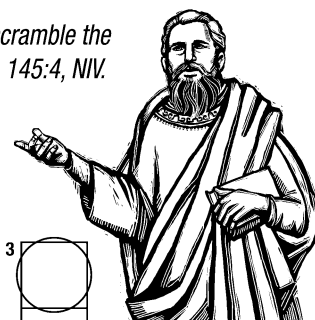
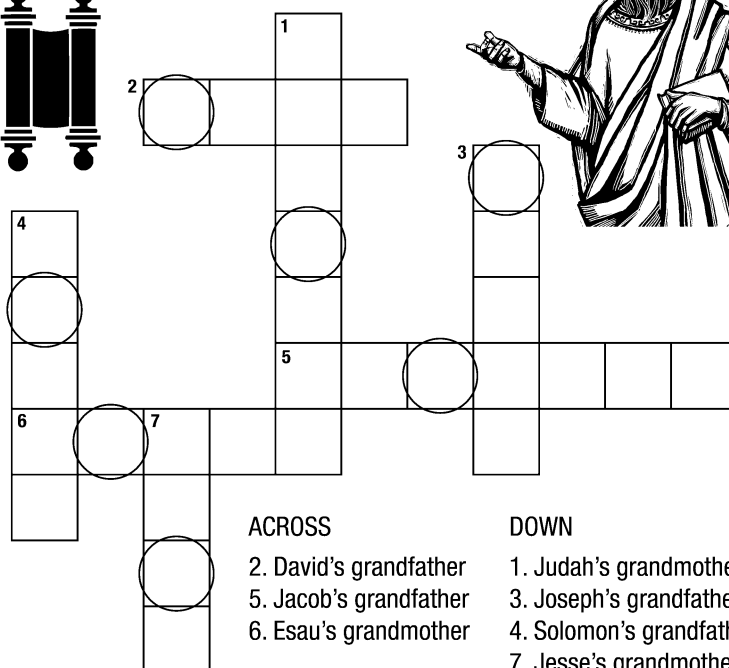
1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family tree.



Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.



ACROSS

2. David's grandfather
5. Jacob's grandfather
6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

1. Judah's grandmother
3. Joseph's grandfather
4. Solomon's grandfather
7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obed, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS SEPTEMBER 24TH.