



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

APRIL 2020

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





Loosed from death

Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"

Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Christian church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are." (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

"In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others." (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

"The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is *our* daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant." (*Life Together*)

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

—Elizabeth C. Clephane



ESTHER CIRCLE

NOTE: New time for Esther Circle meetings! At our March meeting we voted that our meetings will be at the church every second Monday of the month at 12:30 PM. Due to Easter, it was agreed that the April meeting (if there is one) will be on Monday the 20th at 12:30 pm. All women are welcome to attend.

The fourth Sunday fellowship and Pot Faith donations are going to “The Buffalo Burrito Project”. The first quarter, January-March (note no fellowship in March), we sent a check for \$120. Thank you for your continued support with this outreach!

REMINDER! Continue to bring mites to Karen Smith, used stamps and printer cartridges to Pat Watkins and Dash’s receipts to Sue Holway. Thank you!

Our prayers go out to all who have been afflicted by the Coronavirus. May our Lord protect us and give us peace during this public health concern.

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



THE LENTEN OUTREACH FOR SOUTH SUDAN RELIEF

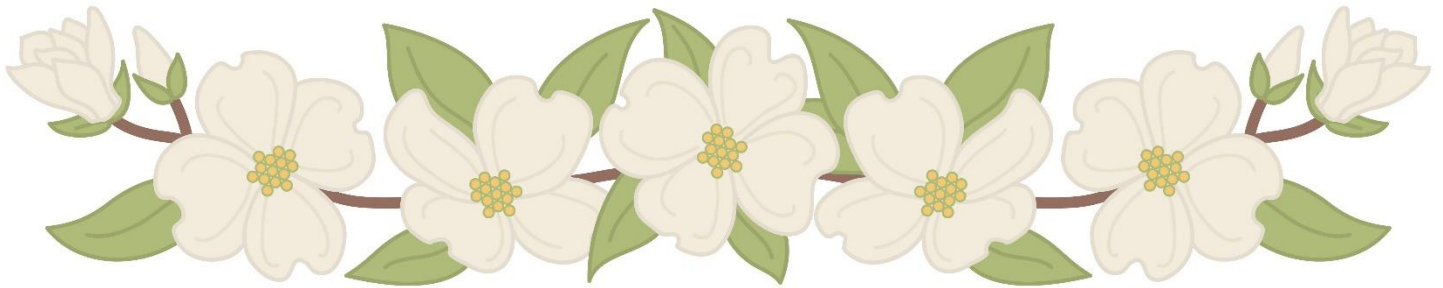
We are thankful to inform you that the amount donated to “The Lenten Outreach for South Sudan Relief Efforts” in Akuor Amanyia’s village has exceeded the goal of \$500! The exact amount will be announced at a future church service. Early April, the money will be given to Akuor, who will send it to the contact lady she knows in the Abeyi region of South Sudan. The woman is the leader of a women’s group there helping with the relief efforts.

Akuor and I want to give thanks to Pilgrim Church for their generous donations and prayers. May God Bless you and keep you all strong in Faith & Health!

Akuor Amanyia & Carol Obot

APRIL Birthdays

Eric Alessi	Apr. 15
Melody Keef	Apr. 20
Jeanette Donnelly	Apr. 21
Adam Keef	Apr. 22
Kevin Rodgers	Apr. 25



Son: Dad, will you help me find the least common denominator in this problem?

Dad: Good heavens, son, don't tell me that hasn't been found. They were looking for it when I was a kid.

Nurse: Doctor, there's a man in the waiting room who claims he's invisible.

Doctor: Tell him I can't see him.

New Wife: Did I make your toast too dark, dear?

Husband: I can't tell yet. The smoke is too thick.

Wife: I baked 2 kinds of biscuits. Would you like to take your pick?

Husband: No, thank you. I'll use my hammer.



If you would like a new way to serve your Lord, we have a suggestion. You can serve God by preparing Pilgrim's altar for worship services. We are badly in need of several more Altar Guild members.

The purpose of the Altar Guild is 3-fold: to serve, to further spiritual commitment, and to accomplish spiritual goals. First, we serve by making sure the church is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the church year. This includes setting up the Communion service and then washing and putting away the vessels after the service. It also includes changing the altar cloths and banners, checking envelopes and pencils in the pews, dusting the windowsills and pews, and listing the hymns on the board. We can all participate—young and old, men and women.

Secondly, commitment is a requirement. We are serving God's people so we need to be reliable, devoted to the tasks, humble and reverent in this work, and joyful for the privilege.

Thirdly, this work is done for the glory of our Lord: to communicate the Gospel and glorify God, to strengthen the worshippers in faith and love, and to maintain ceremonies and practices that preserve good order in the church.

Please pray about this and consider whether you could serve in this way. Currently 5 people make up Pilgrim's Altar Guild. You may contact Mary Werth or Sue Holway. We will show you what we do, work WITH you, and accommodate a flexible schedule.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has partnered with [Barna Group](#)—an industry leader for research-based insights about faith and culture, leadership and vocation, and generational groups—on a critical three-year study of faith in America. This bold new collaboration will allow LHM to create resources and online courses that address the needs of both the church and non-church.

Households of Faith An Invitation into the Homes of Practicing Christians

[Barna studies](#) have revealed much about the state of religion in the United States and how faith is perceived and discussed in public. But what about how faith is being nurtured in private—with the spouses, children, parents, roommates and even frequent visitors who spend time under our roofs?

How Christians order their days and connect with relatives and housemates is a critical aspect of spiritual growth. Households of Faith, the second in a series of studies produced in partnership between Lutheran Hour Ministries and Barna, presents a vivid portrait of the domestic lives of U.S. practicing Christians, including:

- An overview of modern living arrangements and the relationships that define them
- Details of housemates' regular interactions—practical, recreational and spiritual
- Insights about relationships that have a positive and enduring influence on housemates
- Analysis of how faith heritage is linked to beliefs and rituals in adulthood
- Interviews with experts in elder, family and youth ministry about reaching a variety of households
- Custom profiles of vibrant households that embrace hospitality and spiritual practices

In addition to all-new research and data visualizations, Households of Faith provides vital principles to strengthen followers of Christ, their homes and, ultimately, the family of God.

Households of Faith Kit

Explore ways to nurture your household with Barna research-based tools. Each kit includes one Barna HHF monograph, The Spiritually Vibrant Home book, Households of Faith Small Group Study DVD, Project Connect booklets, The Household Magnet, Vibrant Conversations deck, and online course info. (These items may also be purchased separately.)



**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY
NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 23RD.**

Hymns of the Church for the People of God

A couple of months ago, Ruth Whitmer asked me to write something about hymns for the church newsletter. I promised I would, and my promise has been on my heart ever since.

The hymn for the April newsletter is not an Easter hymn as one would expect, although the hope of Easter is implied in the poetry. In these days I sought out a hymn of hope and comfort.

The hymn, ***My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less***, printed in the *Justification* section of our hymnal, is so powerful it is included twice, hymn 575 and 576, using two melodies. When I sang my favorite version over the phone to my daughter, Katie, she said, “Mom, that isn’t the tune I like, I like this tune better!” and she hummed the other melody to me. So, this hymn may provide some discussion among your family as to which melody is the favorite.

The Hymn: *My Hope is Built On Nothing Less*

My hope if built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ Name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant and blood, Support me in the raging flood;

When every earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,

Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!

On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

The Writer’s Story: Edward Mote, born in London in 1797, had two professions, cabinet maker and later, Baptist minister; but throughout his life he was a poet, writing texts for over 100 hymns. A collection of his hymns was published in the 1800’s under the title *Hymns of Praise, A New Selection of Gospel Hymns*.

Mote’s parents managed a London pub and Edward was often on his own, playing with children on the streets. He later said, “So ignorant was I that I did not know there was a God.” However, someone shared the Gospel message with him and he was baptized at age 18.

The story of the writing of *My Hope is Built On Nothing Less* takes place in a very ordinary way. Tradition says that Mote, while walking to work at his cabinet shop, found the words of the refrain, “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand” jostling around in his head. As he worked at the shop, four other verses came to him. When he returned home that evening, he wrote them down.

Mote shared his poem with others in his village, especially a friend’s sick wife, and people enjoyed the verses, encouraging him to keep sharing them. He added two more verses to the hymn and finally felt he should have them printed to distribute. He ordered 1,000 copies, but never put his name on them. The original title of the hymn was quite a mouthful! *The Immutable Basis for A Sinner’s Hope*.

Eventually the verses ended up in a collection of hymns, and Mote discovered that his verses were attributed to the editor of the book. He wrote a magazine and shared that he was the author of the verses. Since his authorship was proven, the origin of the verses has never been disputed.

Edward Mote worked as a cabinet maker for 37 years, all the while writing hymns and verse. But in his fifties, his felt called to the ministry. He served for 27 years as the pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Chapel in Horsham, West Sussex. He was so beloved by his congregation that they wished to offer him the church as a gift. Mote is reported to have replied, “I do not want the chapel, I only want the pulpit; and when I cease to preach Christ, then turn me out of that.”

Edward Mote died at the age of 77 and is buried in the church yard at Rehoboth Chapel. Before his death he is quoted as saying, “The truths I have preached I am now living upon; and they will do to die upon.”

The Message:

The text for the refrain, “On Christ the solid rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand,” comes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came and the streams rose, and the winds blew against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7:24-25

How blessed we are in these troubled times to “build our hope” on the firm foundation of “nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” In this time when darkness is seeming to cover the whole earth, we can “rest on His unchanging grace.” It is my prayer that Jesus is giving you His peace that passes all understanding. That is not to say that we are unaffected by what we see on the news, or even our own fears, but when we are anchored in Him, we have his assurance that He will guide us through every “high and stormy gale” of life. And we have Jesus’ own promise: “*Lo. I will be with you always, even unto the end of the age.*” *Matthew 28:20* Jesus gave us these very words of assurance to “support us in the whelming flood” of life when “all around my soul gives way.”

Through the ages, Edward Mote’s hymn sings out, like a firm anchor, “He,” Jesus the Christ, “is all my hope and stay.” Amen.

The Music: Tradition indicates that Mote sang the words to his verses, but the melody he used is unknown to us.

The first well known melody to Mote’s hymn was composed by William Bradbury, 1816-1868. His melody is number 576 in the **Lutheran Service Book**. It is a beautiful, lilting melody that sounds like a cheerful brook. This melody, my daughter Katie’s favorite, uses the eighth and quarter notes to move the text along. It is often called the “Solid Rock” tune.

The second melody, called Magdalen, was composed by John Stainer, 1840 -1901, and is number 575 in the **Lutheran Service Book**. This melody uses a dotted quarter note to do something interesting. The dotted quarter notes are used to emphasize certain words: Hope, Jesus, merit, lean, Christ. It is as if Stainer wants us to slow down and really hear these words.

The third melody, composed by John Dykes, and sung by many Christians, is to the melody MELITA, otherwise known to us as *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. Again, when singing Mote's hymn to this melody we experience the use of the dotted quarter note to slow us down, especially in the refrain at the words, *Christ* and *rock*, which of course is sung at the end of each verse.

Although Edward Mote wrote this hymn during the early part of the 1800's, it is much beloved and often sung today. In contemporary worship "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" is often sung in a medley with songs such as "In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend. The group Desperation Band released a song "Solid Rock" on their album *Light Up the World*. And Hillsong Music used the verses of the hymn with a new melody on their album *Cornerstone*.

The Melody Challenge: If you like singing and are looking for something to do this week while you are sheltered at home, I suggest you get out your instrument, or try to sing *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less* in the various melodies. Again, the hymns are 575 and 576 in the **Lutheran Service Book**. *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* is number 717. It is a challenge to sing the words with that melody as we are so accustomed to singing The Navy Hymn with those words. If you can access YouTube, you may be able to discover some of the more modern interpretations mentioned above.

Bible Verses to Contemplate: A suggestion for a morning Bible study might be to sing Edward Mote's hymn. And then look up the Bible verses that undergird his verse. They are:

Matthew 16: 13-20; Why do we confess Jesus is the rock upon whom the Church is built? How was Peter able to make this bold confession?

Matthew 7:24 – 27; How has relying on Christ, the Solid Rock made your life better in the past weeks? Is the world relying on solid foundations during this crisis? In what specific ways can we, as Christians, help our friends and family look to Jesus, the Solid Rock?

Acts 4; What hope and confession emboldened Peter and John to proclaim Jesus before the Sanhedrin? How did Peter and John receive their courage in this situation?

Hebrews 10:19-25 How do we "draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith?" And how might we encourage and "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" in these times?

Acknowledgements: For information I used: The Lutheran Service Book @ Concordia Publishing House;

Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>; and *Be Still My Soul* by Randy Petersen, Tyndale House Publication



Name: _____

Date: _____

BIBLE EASTER WORD SEARCH



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

ROMANS
RISEN
SACRIFICE
THREE DAYS
ANGELS
SAVIOR

GOLGOTHA
BLOOD
SIMON OF CYRENE
JESUS
ROBE
LAMB

SON OF GOD
TOMB
APOSTLES
CALVARY
CROSS
NAILS

MARY
CRUCIFIXION
PILATE
HIGH PRIEST
PASSOVER
SUNDAY