



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

FEBRUARY 2020

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

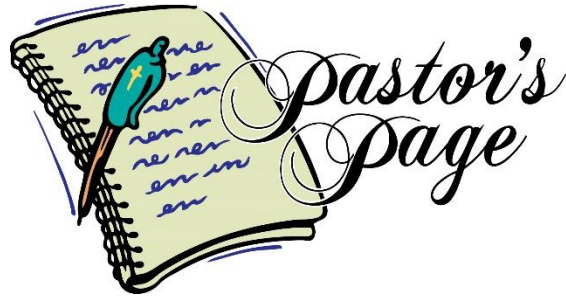
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



LENT BEGINS



As I write this, basketball great Kobe Bryant and nine others (including his own 13-year-old daughter) died in a tragic helicopter crash in Southern California.

Not only basketball fans, but people from every walk of life were shocked by this development as Kobe's life transcended basketball. He was truly one of those people who seemed bigger than life.

And yet, as surely as that helicopter plummeted to earth, we are reminded once again that no one – rich or poor, famous or obscure – is “bigger than life” itself. Even Kobe Bryant was subject to the cycle of life.

Life is a gift; it is the Lord's to give and to take away (Job 1:21).

Because it is a gift, and not a right, we would be wise to “number our days” and not take them for granted (Psalm 90).

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent on February 26th. At the beginning of our Ash Wednesday service we receive the ashes on our forehead (in the sign of the cross) and hear the words, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3)

Indeed, as Adam was fashioned from the dust, all shall return to the dust.

However, that is not the full story: the Bible promises a resurrection from the dead of all people who ever lived, the “just and the unjust.” (Daniel 12)

The world extols great achievements such as being a Grammy winner, winning the Super Bowl, or (as in Kobe's case) winning several NBA Championships and entering into the Basketball Hall of Fame (as he surely will in his first year of eligibility later this year).

However, far greater and better than all of those honors would be to find one's name in the Book of Life.

It is an honor to have one's bust enshrined in the Hall of Fame, or to have one's name inscribed on a sidewalk in Hollywood.

Even better is to be with Jesus and the saints in eternity.

It is being reported that Kobe was a practicing Catholic and so I am relieved to know that he had a Christian faith.

Events such as the Kobe Bryant helicopter crash force us all to confront our mortality. In life or in death may the Lord Jesus “abide with me.”

+ Pastor Ben Eder



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2020

DATE ➡	Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	
READER	Carolyn Alessi	Abigail Size	Gary Smith	Mary Werth	
USHERS	Trace LaFalce * Scot LaFalce	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Dianne Weurch * Mike Weurch	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric Fellner	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	
NURSERY	Linda Eder	TBD	Ruth & Gabby O'Brien	Carolyn Alessi	



In the image of love

While using play therapy with young cancer patients, social worker Amy Jandrisevits found that kids identify best with dolls that resemble them — yet doll diversity was rare.

As described in *Gather* magazine, she launched a line called “A Doll Like Me” that customizes dolls not only to “a child’s ethnicity, gender, hair color and interests, but also their physical characteristics such as clefts, birthmarks, scars and limb differences.” She adds, “It is more than just a doll to a child; it is a representation of the child who owns it.” So far, Jandrisevits has made 300+ dolls for kids worldwide — a project she considers to be a ministry.

Dolls representing vast human differences are a profound reminder that God infused the world with variety and pronounced it good. Just as each custom-made doll is made in the image of the child who will adopt and love it, we’re made in the image of God, who claims us as his beloved children forever.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Rob Gross	Feb. 2
Carol Gross	Feb. 4
Kathy Kornacki	Feb. 8
Grace Termini	Feb. 8
Kathy Farkas	Feb. 10
Jack Hambridge	Feb. 18
Colvina Colvin	Feb. 25
Andrew LaFalce	Feb. 25

(If you want your birthday and/or anniversary in the newsletter, please let me know. You can see me on Sunday or contact me by phone – 534-6922 - or email – madragon99@yahoo.com.

Thank you. – Mary Werth)



CHURCH MAILBOXES

Just a friendly reminder to check and empty your church mailbox often. You never know what surprises it may hold!

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have changed your email address in the past year, please let me know so I can update my contact list. (I've sent a few emails that came back as undeliverable.) Thank you.
– Mary Werth



ESTHER CIRCLE

The Chocolate Sale continues through February until the items are gone. Thank you for your support!

The Buffalo Zone LWML Mission Service Workshop will be hosted at Pilgrim on Saturday, February 1st. A report on the event will be given in the March newsletter.

The first "Pot Faith" is on Sunday, February 23rd. The fellowship and Pot Faith donations this year will be going to "The Buffalo Burrito Project". This outreach has been on the streets of Buffalo serving the homeless, poor and hungry for 12 years. Every Tuesday, burritos are assembled and delivered year-round, regardless of weather. We will be donating to the project that is a collaboration with the residents of Elderwood at Hamburg. The residents make the burritos and lunch kits for distribution on the streets. It connects two of the most vulnerable and ignored segments of our population - the elderly nursing home residents and the homeless people. The residents find much meaning and purpose in making the burritos. They are able to put faith into action and support the community around them. Thank you for your continued support with this outreach!

Our next meeting is on Monday, February 10th, at 6:30 pm. All women are welcome!

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

- Carol Obot & Sue Holway



MEN'S GROUP

The Pilgrim Active Laymen (P.A.L.s) will meet on Saturday, February 15th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us.



Pilgrim's 100th Anniversary will be in 2022!

**It's not too early to be thinking about making some preliminary plans
for our Celebration!!!**

We are forming a Committee to start the planning process. Dianne Wuerch has agreed to be the Committee's Chairperson. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone interested being on the Committee. You can also just help with old photos or stories.... Everyone's input is Important!

Email Dianne at dywuerch54@gmail.com

Dreams work

A minister was asked to speak at the anniversary of the founding of a local church.
Probably the most important statement the pastor made was this:

Here, yesterday, today and tomorrow meet
For workers who dream
And dreamers who work.

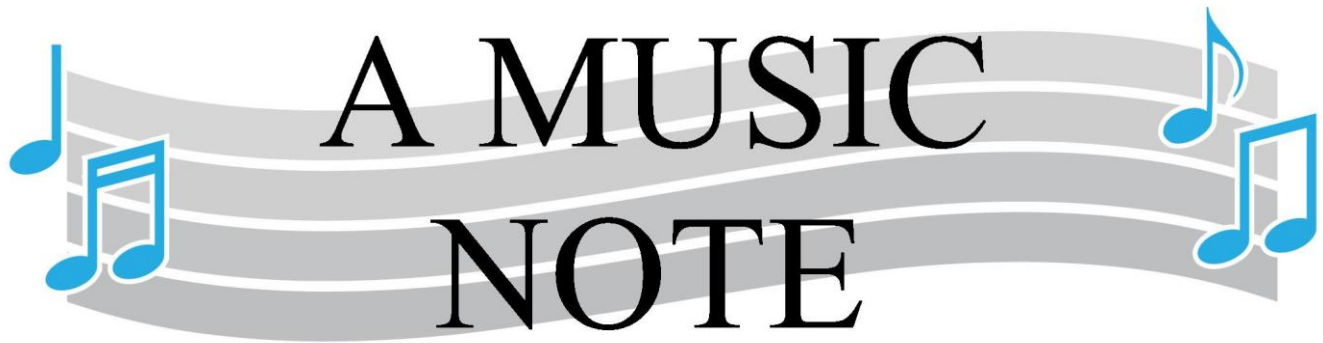
Think of the founding members of the church, the church of yesterday. They built the foundation. Concerning the church at Corinth, St. Paul said, "I planted" [this Corinthian church] (1 Corinthians 3:6, NRSV). Those who responded to the Gospel in Corinth were "the plants" so to speak, the first members of the congregation.

Paul went on to start other churches, but he did not leave those first Corinthian congregants to flounder alone. He left Apollos to water the new plants. "I planted," wrote Paul, "Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6, NRSV).

The church of yesterday began to include the church of today, and in time there would be the church of tomorrow. The seed of the great Gospel had been planted and the soil was good enough to bring forth more members.

The result was church workers. "Workers who dream" — workers who caught the vision and turned to work on behalf of God's kingdom. They were workers who tried to make the dream a reality. They were dreamers who work.

No church can survive without workers who dream great dreams. And no church can grow in good health without dreamers who work for the church of today and for the church of tomorrow.

A graphic featuring three blue musical notes on a grey staff. The title "A MUSIC NOTE" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the staff.

A MUSIC NOTE

Who is Jesus and what did He do? That's what Pastor Rusty Edwards wanted to encapsulate as he began a Bible study in 1986. The hymn "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" was written by Rev. Edwards as he developed a list of the attributes of Jesus, who He was - and is. The title of the hymn is Rev. Edwards' favorite image of Jesus. As I mused on the title and image of Christ, it brought to mind slicing darkness in half and bringing light to our world where there is the heaviness of darkness everywhere due to sin. Jesus came to bring light and life to mankind. But I think that this hymn is particularly relevant this time of year when it seems so dark and gray outside - there just aren't that many sunny days! Nights are longer than days, too. In offering up our praise to the One who breaks the darkness, the light of joy is welcomed and helps erase any lingering depression and the darkness of negative thinking.

You will get to hear this wonderful hymn as the choir is preparing to sing it in an upcoming service. So, stay tuned!

- Ruth Whitmer



In other words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message Bible* reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).



2020 CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

President - Jim O'Brien

Phone: 716-228-6567

Email: Jamesobrien3838@yahoo.com

Vice President – Tim McGuan

Phone: 716-418-5484

Email: stmcguan@gmail.com

Recording Secretary - Tegwanda Alford

Phone: 716-578-5951

Email: hereitis1015@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Carolyn Alessi

Phone: 716-833-9704

Email: carolyn.alessi@huntrealestate.com

Financial Secretary - Mike Wuerch

Phone: 716-481-2624

Email: mikewuerch@gmail.com

Head Elder - Scot LaFalce

Phone: 716-874-4358

Email: edisto1061@gmail.com

Elder - Dooley O'Rourke

Phone: 716-435-1193

Email: jdooley277@gmail.com

Elder – Jim Hartz

Phone: 716-609-0565

Email: jdhartz@roadrunner.com



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

TV PROGRAMMING IMPACTS CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Through a strategic partnership between Lutheran Hour Ministries and SAT-7, the first and largest Middle East and North African Christian TV network, millions of Persian-speaking children, youth, and women are hearing the Gospel daily on television programs. Many of the people in this region have faced trials and hardships in their lives. The SAT-7 PARS programming shares that there is hope that comes from a relationship with Jesus.

One of the children's series offered through this partnership is Golpand, which means "beautiful" or "golden advice". LHM has initiated a support partnership for this program and provides funding for staff and production as well as the design and implementation of a new web page for the SAT-7 PARS channel.

In this program, a fox, canary, and other animal friends live in "The Jungle of Golpand." In each episode, the animals have a lesson based on a biblical perspective, which helps them change their behavior. Children call in to the show to help the animals learn the lessons of that day's episode and encourage the animals to change their bad behavior. Topics on Golpand range from creativity to eating healthy, with many others in between.

Viewers are encouraged to call in to the live show to participate in prayer together. Some children also make their own videos at home which are sometimes featured on the shows. For example, a brother and sister who regularly watch the show make short video skits that correspond to the show's theme. Another girl sends in videos of herself playing her guitar and singing worship songs.

Below are several testimonials from children who regularly watch the Golpand program.

Pareesa, a ten-year-old girl, shares, "I have learned so many things from your program. With your help I have learned more about the Bible. You have taught me the right way to live and I learned from your program that I should give thanks for the blessings of the Lord, and I have learned about things I didn't know before."

Ten-year-old Laaleh contacted SAT-7 PARS to share this prayer: "Oh Loving God, I know you hear my voice. Help me to appreciate my mum and dad more and have more respect for them. God, help me to be kind to my little sister so we can be good friends for one another. My dearest God, help me in my studies so I can make my mum and dad happy by getting good marks, amen." She went on to say: "The Lord is the best listener, you don't need to shout or cry, for the Lord hears even the quietest prayer from a sincere heart."

Taraneh is a young Afghan girl who lives in Tajikistan and regularly calls in. Her inspiring enthusiasm and faith, despite her family's difficult circumstances, shine through in her messages to the channel. "We have to travel three hours to go to my uncle's house to watch the program. I go to play with my cousin because I like it, and I go there to watch your program, too." During one episode, exploring what it means to be thankful, she called to say: "I give thanks for having a mom and dad, a family who are Christians, and that I have been freed from sin."

We are thankful for this partnership and opportunity to spread the love of God to children in the Middle East and North Africa.

Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

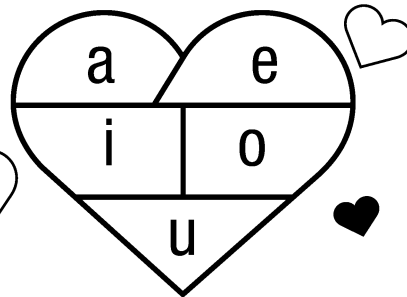


A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



"Y _ _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r."

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other." John 15:14, 17, NIV

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 23RD.