



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**JANUARY 2020**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

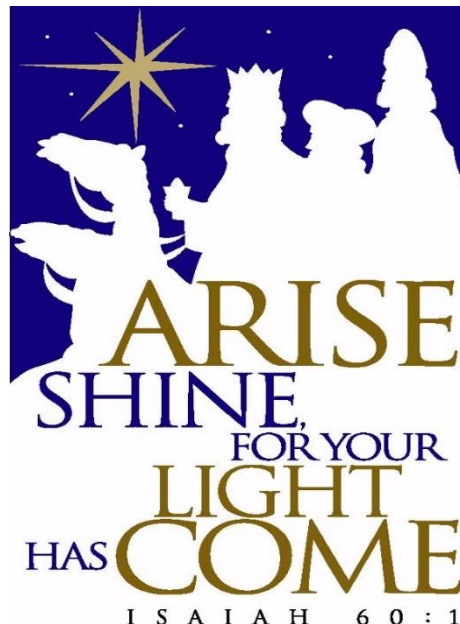
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





# FROM THE PASTOR

In January of every year I make my annual visit to my ophthalmologist. Thanks to his knowledge and skill, I can see 20/20 with the aid of corrective lenses. It truly is a blessing to see clearly!

As we enter another new year, a milestone of sorts is being achieved: we are now entering the “Roaring 20's!” There are still people living who were born in the 1920's, and (as was stated at the last voters meeting) Pilgrim will be observing her 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022.

When we begin a new year there is usually some hope and optimism over what lies ahead. Sometimes we use a new calendar year to put aside some habits or practices that are no longer beneficial for us and put on something “new.”

Politicians and athletes, among others, often speak of “20/20 hindsight.” It's easy to look back on the past and say, “Knowing what I know now, THIS is what I should have done!” Feelings of guilt may overwhelm us when we regret the things we did and lament over the things we should have done (Romans 7:13-25).

Rather than getting bogged down in “20/20 hindsight,” it is far better to pray for “20/20 foresight.” That is, pray for God's direction and guidance in the year ahead. Since we remain fallible human beings, our choices and decisions will never be perfect – there is always some “trial and error.” However, it is always better to seek the will and direction of the Lord than to “go it alone.”

I am reminded of the “man born blind” in John, Chapter Nine. As Jesus opened his eyes, the man could not only see physically, but spiritually: he came to believe in the Savior who gave him his sight. By contrast, the pharisees who attacked Jesus for the miracle had sight but remained spiritually blind: they were unwillingly to recognize the Messiah who stood before them.

As we begin a new year (and decade), I am mindful of the many who continue to “stumble and bumble” around in life, without any spiritual guidance or direction. They need Jesus. By making Jesus known to others, we pray that at least some will receive spiritual “sight” and believe.

And for those suffering from “20/20 hindsight,” be assured that Jesus regularly and completely forgives the sins of repentant believers who cry out to him in mercy. When the pastor proclaims Absolution in Jesus' Name, you can be sure that you are receiving forgiveness from Jesus himself.

If there is a particular sin that troubles you, and you need further reassurance, private Confession and Absolution is available; whatever is confessed is private and will not be divulged by the pastor. If you desire this, please let me know.

In any case, may the Lord grant us a blessed 2020!

+ Pastor Ben Eder



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

### JANUARY 2020

DATE ➡	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	
READER	Eric Fellner	Tim McGuan	Scot LaFalce	Wes Weirs	
USHERS	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller	Dianne Weurch * Mike Weurch	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	George Alessi * Jim O'Brien	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	George Alessi	Frank Alessi	Jim O'Brien	Gary Smith	
NURSERY	Jim & Gabby O'Brien	Carol Obot	Carolyn Alessi	Amber Trimmer	



On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor related in his sermon that “God is with you”. More and more, Gary and I feel God’s presence in our lives, and we are so blessed by Him. We thank whoever left us the special Christmas present in our mail slot at church. May God bless and keep you always.

Karen S.



# JANUARY

## Birthdays

Rev. Ben Eder	Jan. 5
Amber Trimmer	Jan. 9
Michael Donnelly	Jan. 25
Bryan Hinterberger	Jan. 25
Traci LaFalce	Jan. 28
Patricia Watkins	Jan. 31



**Pilgrim's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2022!**

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

We will be forming a Committee this coming January to start the planning process. Dianne Wuerch has agreed to be the Committee's Chairperson. There will be a sign-up sheet in January 2020 for anyone interested in being on the Committee.

**Everyone's input is Important!**



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Greetings in 2020! We are thankful for the outreach the Esther Circle did in 2019. We gave \$526 to Hananiah's Food Pantry. Minister Davis came to our December meeting and gave an enlightening presentation on all the mission programs they are doing connected with this pantry. We made over \$200 each with the Dash's receipts and mites. Thank you!

The Fellowship and Pot Faith donations this year will be going to "The Burrito Project". This is a program that provides burritos to the homeless in the area. Again, your continued support is needed.

YES! The chocolate suckers will be back! We will be selling them the end of January through February. The candy making sessions will be Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> (and the 18<sup>th</sup> if needed), from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the church. All are welcome to help!

The January meeting will be on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing the candy making and the hosting of the Buffalo Zone LWML Mission Service Workshop on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please refer to the flyer insert.

**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!

We pray that this year, 2020, will bring you good health, lots of joy and that inner PEACE from God.

Carol Obot & Sue Holway

### **Pilgrim's Esther Circle now has a Terri Lynn Web Store!**

It enables you and everyone you know to go online and purchase the same nuts and candy that we sold in our Fundraiser!!

Any time, any day, for any occasion during the year...24/7!!

No deadlines!!

All orders are paid online and shipped directly to you!!

All proceeds will be mailed monthly by check to Pilgrim Esther Circle to be used towards our yearly charities!

Here is the link.

<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terri Lynn.com/>

Thank you!  
Esther Circle



A Voters Meeting was held on December 15<sup>th</sup> after the service. The only new Church Council member is Jim Hartz as an Elder. Scot LaFalce is now the Head Elder as Tyrone Bryant ended his service. (Council contact information will be in the next newsletter.)

Pilgrim's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be in 2022. A fund will be set up so we can begin collecting for this. Dianne Weurch will head the committee. (See birthday page for more information.)

We are looking into improving the lighting in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will be contacting the same company that installed our lift for their suggestions.

We voted to receive Robert Crowley into membership by profession of faith. He regularly attends the Saturday service.

The Girl Scout troop that was meeting on Fridays twice a month at Pilgrim has suspended operations. They are a new group and apparently things just didn't work out.

The budget for 2020 was discussed and approved.

Our next meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.



## MEN'S GROUP

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



## TIME TO UN-DECORATE!

Come and join us on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. to take down the Christmas decorations at church. Many hands make light work!





This month's Community Dinner will be held on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The menu is spaghetti with tomato sauce, meatballs, tossed salad, bread and butter with assorted desserts and beverages. Everyone is welcome!



### **Quite a story**

During Sunday dinner, a mother asked her son what he'd learned in Sunday school that day.

"Well," he said, "our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge, and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, is that *really* what your teacher said?" the boy's mother asked.

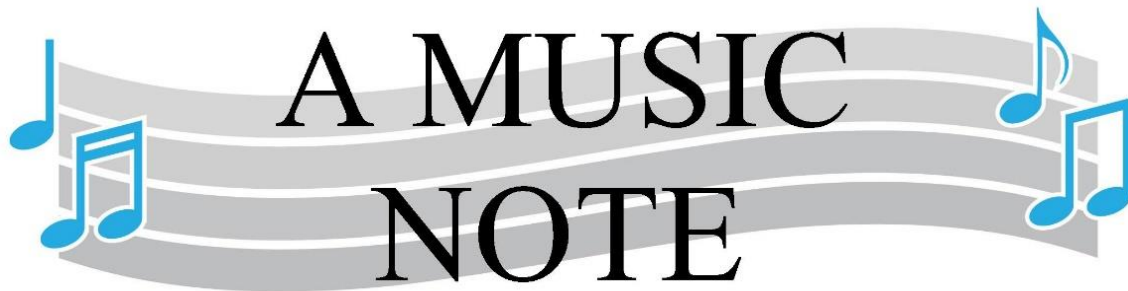
"Well, no," he admitted. "But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

### **A special audience**

Bill Moyers, a fixture on public television, was once a young associate of President Lyndon Johnson. At a White House dinner one evening, the president asked Moyers to offer grace. Reverently, Moyers began praying but in a rather soft voice.

The president interrupted, saying, "Speak up, Bill, speak up!"

Moyers stopped, turned to Johnson and said, "I wasn't speaking to you, Mr. President."



# A MUSIC NOTE

I have been taking some time the last few days to reflect on church music in general over the past year. One of the things that I often think about is congregational singing. I ask myself, "Am I doing everything I can to enable singing to occur in every service?" I wonder what people are thinking when a hymn is being sung. There are times when I sense a participant is singing with their whole heart. This past Sunday a conversation was overheard about "Go Tell it on the Mountain." One attendee was mentioning how much she enjoyed singing it and (Oh my!) a person actually clapped their hands as the song was being sung! From my vantage point at the piano, it actually gave me goosebumps. That's what I call putting your whole heart into a song.

I would like to make some goals for the new year. One of the goals that is perhaps both a challenging goal, but worthwhile one is to come up with ideas to help bolster congregational singing. I recently read an article written by Keith Getty from 2014 in "The Gospel Coalition" focusing on how to improve congregational singing. Based on what I read, I think we have several of the needed foundational aspects for good congregational singing. Our pastor is vitally interested in congregational singing, as he is in all aspects of the service. And Pastor Ben has a commendable way to model participation in the singing of hymns. Also, my opinion is that we sing great hymns, hymns specifically chosen to be sung in our services. This article also states: **"Throughout Scripture, the command to sing is given to God's people more than 400 times. [Ephesians 5:19](#) instructs believers to address one another in "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." Week after week, we are spiritually renewed, realigned, and sanctified by singing to the Lord and singing to each other as the body of Christ."**

So, as we begin a new year, I personally would like to invite you to sing out. It doesn't matter if you are able to sing well or not. What matters is that you **ARE** singing!



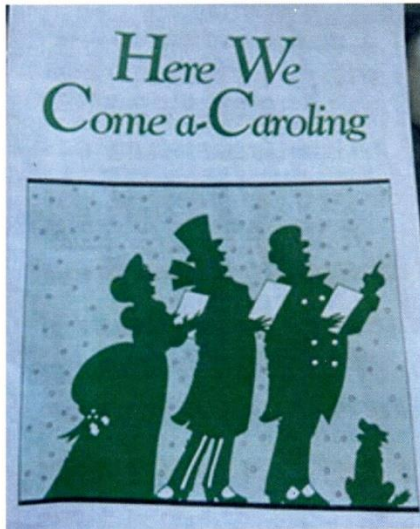
## Faith came singing

Faith came singing into my room  
And other guests took flight.  
Grief, anxiety, fear and gloom,  
Sped out into the night

-Elizabeth Cheney in  
The Christian's Treasury



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pilgrim Lutheran Carolers!



Mark Difulvio, Ruth Whitmer, Carolyn Alessi, Carol Obot and Granddaughter Kendall, Eric Fellner, Mike Wuerch and Dianne Wuerch.

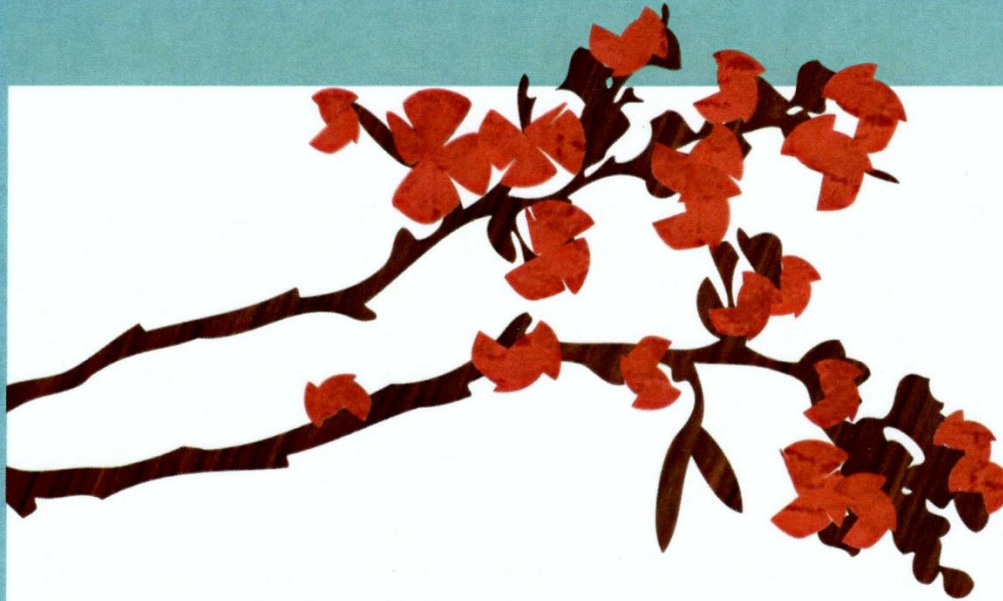
We visited Schofield Residence Nursing Facility, McAuley Residence and Brookdale Kenmore.

It was wonderful seeing the residents smiling and singing along!!!!

Thank you, Mark and Ruth, for organizing everything.

Save the Date for Next Year!!!!!!





YOU ARE INVITED TO....

**A BUFFALO ZONE LWML MISSION SERVICE  
WORKSHOP!!**

*THE DAY'S MISSION GOAL: TO MAKE SURGICAL CAPS FOR  
LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AND ENCOURAGING GREETING  
CARDS FOR EACH CHILD RECEIVING A CAP.*

*\*\*\* PLEASE ATTEND AND HELP US MAKE MANY CAPS!! THE CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL THANKS YOU \*\*\**

---

**FEBRUARY 1, 2020 FROM 9:00 AM – NOON**

**AGENDA: DEVOTIONS, THEN WORKSHOP**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY PILGRIM'S ESTHER CIRCLE**

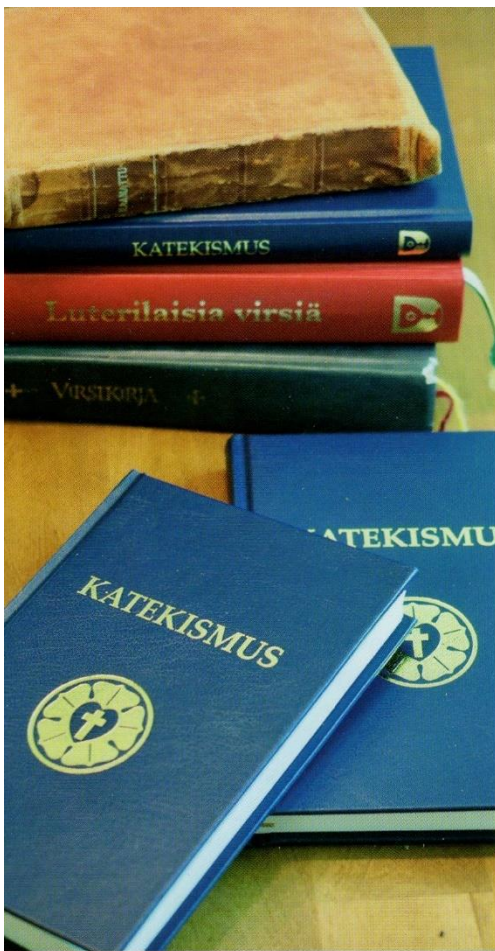
PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD KENMORE, NY 14217

---

PLEASE BRING PORTABLE SEWING MACHINE IF YOU HAVE ONE. ALSO NEEDED: 100% PRE-WASHED COTTON FABRIC (NO FLANNEL OR GLITTER) WITH CHILDREN'S DESIGNS, ¼ INCH ELASTIC, SCISSORS AND THREAD. NON-SEWERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND NEEDED TO CUT FABRIC FOR CAPS, CUT AND ATTACH ELASTIC TO THE CAPS, AND MAKE GREETING CARDS. IF YOUR SOCIETY CAN NOT ATTEND, WE CAN PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE CAPS ON YOUR OWN. TO RSVP & MORE INFORMATION CALL SHARON MCGUAN 716 803 3767.





## Please pray...

Your prayers are urgently requested for translator Päivi Räsänen in Finland. Päivi, who is a Christian medical doctor and a member of the Finnish Parliament (Christian Democrats), is being investigated for "incitement to hatred" for her work on a 2004 publication supported by LHF, concerning Christian marriage and homosexuality.

"[This is] a Preliminary Investigation of a pamphlet I wrote in 2004," writes Päivi. "Not only was I interrogated by the police for four hours last Friday regarding my Twitter account, but now I am facing further interrogations." (To read the inspector's press release, go to [LHFmissions.org](http://LHFmissions.org).)

"Police investigations concern not only Päivi who wrote it, but also the Lutheran Foundation - Finland, which published it," said Rev. Juhana Pohjola, coordinator of the Finnish translation projects.

### Sharing the Gospel while doors are still open

As LHF nears its 27th anniversary, situations like this illustrate why the Lutheran Heritage Foundation was first founded: to share the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ, while doors are open.

Once those doors to Christianity close, the printed Word becomes essential. Books, translated into the languages of the people, pass from parent to child to grandchild, preserving the faith for generations.

Please, prayerfully consider how you can help provide this foundation of Lutheranism for years to come. [www.LHFmissions.org](http://www.LHFmissions.org)

## Great exploits

Colorado pastor Mike Paulison, who's made many mission trips to Haiti to build and maintain an orphanage, shares about **prayer's power**:

"On one trip, we were bringing large items that could've been problematic, because in Haiti customs officials often make up their own rules. We urged our prayer-support team back home to be praying as we went through customs. But when a storm delayed our flight from Miami for two hours, the schedule was off. We encouraged one another, saying at least prayers had been lifted. Later, on the plane to Haiti, I noticed I'd made a mistake on the schedule. It was off by exactly two hours. The supporters were actually praying the very moment we landed in Port-au-Prince!

"In line at customs, we watched officials opening luggage. But by the time we got to the front, the inspectors were gone, and we were allowed to walk into the country. We experienced firsthand the promise in Daniel 11:32b (NKJV): 'The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.'"



Did you know that LHM has ministry centers in more than 30 countries around the world? Our local staff use a variety of programs to connect people in their community with the love of Jesus. For example, Project Joel is a children's program carried out in local schools, many of them public! Bible Correspondence Courses are held throughout the world, both in small group settings and individually, allowing people to learn about the God of the Bible. We also use TV programs, radio broadcasts, portable devices with the Bible and other resources loaded on them, and even broadcasts on social media to share God's Word with as many people as possible. And, finally, our ministry centers use holistic programs to care for people's physical needs, while also connecting with their spiritual needs.

To find out more about the amazing work God is doing through LHM Ministry Centers around the world, go to <https://www.lhm.org/intlportal/default.asp>. For specific information on a country or a ministry program, you can download fact sheets at <https://www.lhm.org/intlportal/factsheets.asp>. You can also watch a very short video about the global work of Lutheran Hour by clicking this link: <https://vimeo.com/301860675>. This is a great video to share with others as well!



## **Feed my sheep**

When Katie Davis traveled to Uganda in 2006 to do mission work during her senior year of high school, she didn't expect to fall in love with the people and culture. She also didn't expect to return after graduation — or to adopt 13 orphans within a few years.

Davis, who details her adventures in *Kisses From Katie* (Howard Books), helps bring food, medical care, education and Jesus' love to hundreds of children while raising her 13 daughters. Yet she insists she's not particularly brave or strong. "I'm just doing what God called me to do as a follower of him," Davis says. "Feed his sheep, do unto the least of his people."

Although she's been exposed to diseases and deplorable conditions in Uganda, Davis willingly accepts the risks. "I'm much more terrified of living a comfortable life in a self-serving society and failing to follow Jesus than I am of any illness or tragedy," she writes. "I have yet to find where [Jesus] warned us to be safe."

# "STEP" INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to  
remember God's  
many blessings.

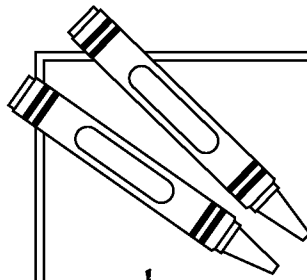


## What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

## What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.

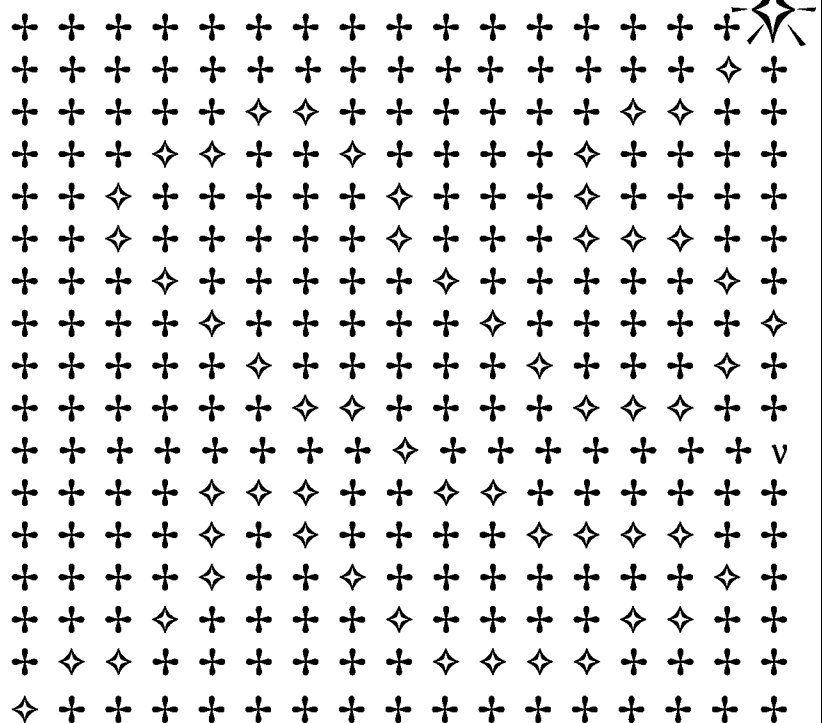


Just for **KIDS**

## The Star that Led to the King

The wise men from the East saw a bright star. They followed it to the place where the child who would be King of the Jews was born. When they went inside, they saw baby Jesus with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. (Read Matthew 2:1-11.)

Help the wise men follow the star ✧ path that leads to baby Jesus.



START



Use the code to fill in the blanks and find out what gifts the wise men brought.

♥ = A   ✿ = E   † = I   ⦿ = O   \* = Y

G \_ LD   FR \_ NK \_ NC \_ NS \_   M \_ RRH

Answers: GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, MYRRH

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>.**