



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

MARCH 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

We are deep into the political season and it is said that we are living in one of the most divisive times in our country's history. In my lifetime, I believe that the Vietnam era comes close.

It wasn't so long ago that a person could express their religious, political, and social views and the other person would say, "That's interesting" or "Tell me more." Today, more than likely we will hear "I hate you" or "I want nothing to do with you" or statements to that effect.

Rather than speculating on how we got here, I would rather discuss the root cause of this divisiveness. The root cause, of course, is sin; but that sin manifests itself in hatred towards those who may hold different beliefs or views than we do.

How do we justify our hatred? We do so primarily through the alliance of (1) judgment and (2) self-righteousness.

Whenever we judge others, we put ourselves in the place of God. Yet Jesus warns us,

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." – Matthew 7

What leads us to judge others? We can attribute that to the sin of self-righteousness, in which we believe that we are better than others. This attitude is summarized in the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, in which the Pharisee looks at the tax collector in the temple and says,

'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." – Luke 18

In the month of March, we are deep into the Season of Lent. May we confess before God and each other, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." In this season we will witness how Jesus was hated, yet he never condemned but rather forgave his enemies. May he give us the strength to love and forgive our enemies as well.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ben Eder



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

MARCH 2020

| DATE ➡ | Mar. 1 | Mar. 8 | Mar. 15 | Mar. 22 | Mar. 29 |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| READER | Tyrone Bryant | Karen Smith | Dooley O'Rourke | Eric Fellner | Tim McGuan |
| USHERS | Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller | Eric Fellner * Gary Smith | Dianne Weurch * Mike Weurch | George Alessi * Jim O'Brien | Traci LaFalce * Scot LaFalce |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Gary Smith | Frank Alessi | George Alessi | Eric Fellner | Jim O'Brien |
| NURSERY | Carol Obot | Jim & Gabby O'Brien | Amber Trimmer | Linda Eder | George Alessi |



A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *lencten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."



Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Madison Porter | Mar. 1 |
| Karen Smith | Mar. 5 |
| Philip Hinterberger | Mar. 13 |
| Wes Wiers | Mar. 20 |
| Molly Donnelly | Mar. 22 |
| Linda Eder | Mar. 23 |
| Rhonda Mohr | Mar. 23 |
| Naomi George | Mar. 26 |
| Jeff Rodgers | Mar. 27 |
| Tim McGuan | Mar. 30 |
| Judy Miller | Mar. 31 |



Special dates

- First Sunday in Lent, *March 1, 2020*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2020*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 8, 2020*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 8, 2020*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 15, 2020*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2020*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 22, 2020*
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 29, 2020*



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our March meeting is on Monday the 9th., 6:30 pm at the church. All women are welcome!

The Buffalo Zone LWML Mission Service Workshop that was held at Pilgrim on February 1st was attended by 16 women. Pastor Ben gave the devotion. Surgical caps and greeting cards were made for children cancer patients. It was a good time for fellowship and service to the community.

The chocolate candy has been sold! The \$150 that was made is going to replenish the Esther Circle funds that are used to give donations throughout the year. Thank you for your support in this fundraiser!

The 4th Sunday fellowship and Pot Faith donations are going to "The Buffalo Burrito Project". This outreach has been going on the streets of Buffalo serving the homeless, poor and hungry for 12 years. We are donating to the project that is collaborating with the residents of Elderwood at Hamburg. Thank you for your continued support with this outreach!

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!

May you reflect on what the meaning of fasting, prayer and giving is in relation to the Lenten season!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



MEN'S GROUP

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



ONLINE ORDERING IS AVAILABLE!

**Gourmet Nuts, Dried Fruit & Fruit Mixes
Chocolates & Sweets, Snacks & Mixes
Gift Boxes & Tins**

Purchase any day or time during the year!

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!

Pilgrim Lutheran Esther Circle Store link.

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

Thank you!
Esther Circle

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
44 Chapel Road ~ Kenmore, NY 14217
FREE Community Dinner

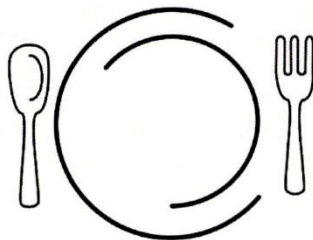


Let the **Shamrock** serve as a reminder to thee of **God's** perfect presence in His holy **Trinity**.

Please join us for our monthly Community Dinner
Corner of Delaware and Chapel Roads
Friday, March 6th, 2020 at 5pm-7pm

Our Menu

Macaroni & Cheese
Chicken Tenders
Tossed Salad
Bread
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!

PILGRIM'S LENTEN OUTREACH

Akuor Amanyanya has chosen to make Pilgrim her church home. She has made ongoing prayer requests for her family in South Sudan. In January 2020, there was an attack on her home village, Kolom in the Abyei region near the Sudan border. **32** people were killed, among them women and children as young as 10 months old. At least **25** people were wounded. **20** houses, a clinic and a church were burned to the ground. **15** children were abducted. **6** children have been returned **after** the families paid a ransom. There is a great need for medical supplies, personal supplies and food!

We are in the season of Lent. A time of Fasting, Prayer and Giving. A time of reflection in having our Hearts in the right place to draw us closer to GOD. A time to be Humble, to Listen and Act on the needs of other people! As a Lenten outreach we are asking for an offering to be given to those in need in Akuor's village. The collection will begin now and continue through the month of March. We are asking you to use the Special Giving envelopes that are in the pews or a separate envelope; you can give cash or write a check to "Pilgrim Lutheran Church". **Please note "SOUTH SUDAN RELIEF" in the memo section on the check and on the envelope.** Place your donation in the offering plate. The money donated will be given to Akuor to give to the contact lady she knows in the Abyei region of South Sudan. The woman is the leader of a women's group there helping with the relief efforts.

The goal is \$500. Please search within your hearts and give what you can. Thank you and God Bless!

Carol Obot & Akuor Amanyanya



SOUTH SUDAN RELIEF





A MUSIC NOTE

Feeling very uninspired for this newsletter, I started flipping through the Lutheran Service Book, just looking at Lenten hymns. One hymn we've sung "O Christ, You Walked the Road" jumped out at me. I don't often get to sing these hymns since I'm focused on playing them, so it was noteworthy to me to read the words of the various stanzas and think about them. I particularly liked the fourth stanza:

**"When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align."**

It is a very prayerful hymn and admonishes us to seek God's will in all we do or want to do, to put Him first in all things. It reminds me of a Frances Havergal hymn 'Live Out Thy Life Within Me' which is not in our hymnal. Here are some of the words to this hymn:

**Live out Thy life within me, O Jesus, King of kings!
Be Thou Thyself the answer to all my questionings;
Live out Thy life within me, in all things have Thy way!**

May we solemnly ask for God to have His way in our lives through song.

- Ruth Whitmer



Prayer around the world

Travel writer Rick Steves, who's a Christian, believes travel can help us see God. He writes of gaining new insights into prayer from a so-called "whirling dervish" (a sort of Muslim monk) in Turkey. Before demonstrating how he prays, the man explained to Steves: "When we pray, we keep one foot in our community, anchored in our home. The other foot steps around and around, acknowledging the beautiful variety of God's creation ... touching all corners of this great world. I raise one hand up to acknowledge the love of God, and the other hand goes down like the spout of a teapot. As I spin around, my hand above receives the love from our Creator, and my hand below showers it onto all of his creation."

Most of us probably won't add whirling to our prayer practices! And we likely already pray for people near and far. But what if we pictured ourselves both anchored at home and stepping out among God's whole creation? What if we imagined God's love pouring into us, then out of us onto all the world? How might such an approach to prayer influence how we live?



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.

You can also just help with old photos or stories. Everyone's input is Important!

Email Dianne at dywuerch54@gmail.com

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone interested being on the Committee.
FIRST MEETING WILL BE IN THE SPRING!!

Men's Network Workday

Lutheran Hour Ministries annual Men's NetWork WORKDAY is April 25! In 2019, more than 500 men spent the last weekend in April serving their neighbors. Join them in 2020 by signing up at www.lhm.org/men/workday. This year your men's group could be awarded one of 5 LHM Neighborhood Service Awards for outstanding projects serving your neighbors. Winners also win a \$100 Visa gift card.

Digital Pledge

Do you have a social media account? If so, you know social media can be a divisive and dark place. You also know it can be a great avenue for connecting with people! Lutheran Hour Ministries is calling Christians to use their digital voices to be light in digital spaces. Take the Digital Conversation Pledge to learn how and commit to being a positive voice in your digital spaces! Learn more at www.lhm.org/pledge.

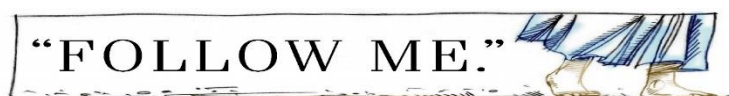


63-year-old Lemby is married with eight children. He is one of the Malaso (cattle rustlers) who go to faraway villages in groups of about 10 to ravage other people's cows so they could bring back food for the women and children at home. While his group usually got what they were hunting for, he believed they were also wasting their time to earn money for worshipping evils. Lemby later became the group leader, but soon got terribly sick and had to stay back at home. Around this time he felt that God was talking to him to surrender his life but he didn't want to hear God's voice. LHM-Madagascar staff met Lemby and his family shortly thereafter when they visited his home village. They were sharing God's love for them when Lemby stood up and announced that he wanted to know more about Jesus the Savior and was willing to trust in Him through the power of God's Word. "I tried many things and worshipped evils for a long time but never saw any changes in my family's life. Let me join you and I hope God will help me to change my life," he said. The next morning Lemby and his family attended a local worship service and were among 143 people baptized on that Sunday, including many of his fellow rustlers and their families. He has since asked the local Lutheran church if they could build a church in his village.

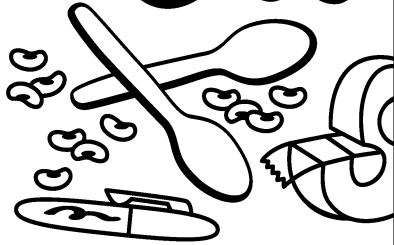
Chhiet is a 30-year-old teacher at a primary school in Cambodia. His father died when he was only six years old. His mom got remarried and had two more children, but Chhiet never got along with his stepfather, so he went to live with other relatives when he was 10. He now wants to have a better relationship with his family and hopes to become closer with his stepfather.

He comes from a non-Christian background, but he is looking to find the true meaning of life. The culture that he grew up in would pray to their deceased family members, and Chhiet wondered why that was a common practice. Searching for answers, he got in contact with LHM-Cambodia during a puppet show at his school and they told him about God and how He created heaven and earth. Chhiet was very interested and opened his heart to listen to the LHM staff members. They put him in contact with a local pastor to follow up with him. LHM-Cambodia gave him booklets and he continues to go to church to grow his faith.

Ardagul grew up in a non-Christian household and always had questions about God and salvation. A few months ago, she joined an LHM-Mongolia listener meeting and fellowship. A lot of her questions were answered during the meeting and she started to understand who God is and that He loves everyone. She learned that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. The messages from the meeting touched Ardagul's heart and she began to understand that Jesus is her Savior. She decided she would go to church every week and is now listening to the LHM radio program in addition to joining the ministry's Bible study group.



Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| A type of horn | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> | MURTETP |
| Played by King David | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | PRHA |
| Plucked to make sound | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | IGSNSTR |
| Similar to a tambourine | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | MRBELIT |
| A type of harp | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> | ELRY |
| Blown through to make sound | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | EPPI |
| A percussion instrument | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | YBLACMS |

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 22ND.**