



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

NOVEMBER 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





Lately I've been pondering the role of sin and qualifications for service in the Church. The fact is, the only material God has to work with are sinners such as you and me. The qualifications for pastor are made clear in Holy Scripture. *1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-8* However, what is expected of every Christian?

All human beings are sinful by nature and sin daily in thought, word, and deed. As Christians, we are also in our Baptism and therefore we are covered by Christ's righteousness. In this regard, we are "saints and sinners simultaneously."

God's Word says that when we break God's law in even the smallest part, we are guilty of breaking the entire law; *James 2:10* this is because God's law demands holiness and perfection, nothing that no human being can accomplish. Aware of our inability to save ourselves, God sent his holy and sinless Son Jesus to save sinners through his blood.

In Christ, believers are equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve him. However, even our best intentions are tainted by the sin that so easily clings to us. How does this impact our service to the Lord in his Church?

We daily confess our sins and repent of them before the Lord. Whenever necessary, we confess our sins to each other and forgive one another. We daily wrestle with temptation, the threat of evil, and all of the darts and arrows that the devil throws at us. In the end, though, we give the Lord only what we've got: we are "broken, cracked clay jars" *2 Corinthians 4:7* in service to him.

All of us struggle daily with sinful thoughts and inclinations, some of which we are too ashamed to mention publicly. Almighty God, who knows all things, does not expect us to be perfect: he expects us to be faithful. While even sinful thoughts and inclinations are a breaking of the law, they do not disqualify us from service or leadership in the Church. What is clear, however, is when sinful thoughts and inclinations are translated into sinful action.

God does not punish every individual sin – in fact, his reluctance to do so is meant to lead us to repentance. *Romans 2:4*. While all sin is sin, the Bible makes it clear that sinful behavior is judged by a higher standard. Lust for money, for example, would not normally be punished or addressed unless it led to sinful action (stealing, robbing a bank). Even if sinful action were not involved, the Christian is called to repent of such greed and to be content with what one has. This is true for all of the sins that we face.

Jesus has built his Church on earth through the faithfulness of flawed human beings such as you and me. Let us rejoice in our Savior who loves us and forgives us daily.

+ Pastor Ben Eder



Loretta Himmele

Nov. 1

Special dates

All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2020*
Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 1, 2020*
Election Day, *November 3, 2020*
Veterans Day, *November 11, 2020*
Thanksgiving Day, *November 26, 2020*
First Sunday of Advent, *November 29, 2020*



Strangers no more

Some people open their holiday meals to strangers, and one host even did so inadvertently. In 2016, Wanda Dench texted 17-year-old Jamal Hinton about Thanksgiving dinner, thinking she was contacting her grandson. When a skeptical Hinton requested a photo and received a selfie of someone with a different skin color, he chuckled — but then asked if he could still come eat! Thus began a new friendship and a new annual tradition, which Hinton documents online. “Family is more than blood,” says Dench. “It’s the people you want to be with.”

This year’s meal will be bittersweet, with an empty chair for Dench’s husband, who died of Covid-19 in April. To show support after that loss, Hinton sent his “grandma” a collection of loving video messages. Strangers worldwide expressed condolences to a woman who’d fully embraced a stranger.



ESTHER CIRCLE

We had 10 in attendance including Pastor Ben at our meeting on October 19th. Carol led a Bible study from The Lutheran Women's Quarterly (Fall 2020) issue called "Inspired to Share HIS Story". H - Held by God's Word, I - Inspired to share HIS story, and S - Surrounded by HIS grace. We had a good dialogue on the Word of God.

Our November meeting is Monday, the 9th at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

Please refer to the update in this newsletter regarding the Terri Lynn nut/candy sale. Thank you to those that sold and/or ordered items. We also thank Dianne Wuerch for coordinating this major fundraiser.

REMINDER! Keep the Dash's receipts coming! Give them to Sue Holway. The mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith for LWML grants. The cancelled stamps cut with a 1/2 inch border frame go to Sharon McGuan. Old printer ink cartridges go to Pat Watkins.

As we go into the month of November, let's reflect on giving words of Thanksgiving to God, our church, Pastor Ben, family, friends, our country and others who have or will touch our lives! We pray 🙏 as you celebrate Thanksgiving this month that you put JESUS our SAVIOR in the center of your hearts. 💖

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



"Greet God!"

A Facebook acquaintance who's in the ministry shared an interesting bit of culture from his time in Germany. By way of greeting, instead of "Guten Morgen" or "Hallo," locals often said "Grüße Gott" — literally, "Greet God." My friend took it to be a vestige of old, much as the English "goodbye" emerged from "God be with ye."

Though most people probably say "Grüße Gott" without much thought, my friend pondered: How might our encounters change if we heard in our greetings an invitation to "greet God" in the other person and in our shared interactions? What if we truly believed God was present in others and in the space between us? Jesus said when we welcome another, we welcome him. If Jesus came physically to our door, how would we welcome him? Can we treat the person before us that very way?

—Heidi Mann



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Terri Lynn Fundraiser!!!

Your orders have been sent in and should arrive in two weeks! I will notify the sellers when they do arrive.

9 Brochure Sales - \$1,426 (Profit \$348.95)

7 Online Sales – (Profit \$120.69 To Date)

Do not have total Online sales, guessing at least \$250

2020 Total Sales approx.. \$1,676.00

2020 Total Profit - \$469.64

ORDER ONLINE ... ANYTIME!!!

<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terrilynn.com>

With Direct Delivery...NO Tax
(There is a \$5.00 Shipping Charge)

Any questions text or call:

Dianne Wuerch 716-481-2599



Giving Back Was Never So Easy

There's nothing like a small gesture of kindness to make the holidays a little more special. This year, from November 1 through the end of December 2020, the **Men's NetWork** is encouraging you to find little opportunities to bless others as you give back by *paying it forward*.

Sound difficult? It's not.

Showing goodwill to a stranger is easy. Here are a few suggestions: paying for someone's coffee; sending Christmas cards anonymously to neighbors with a crisp \$5 bill inside; tipping drive-thru employees and handing them a copy of LHM's Advent devotions; dropping off some baked treats to a mom who's got her hands full with kids doing school at home.

Or you can do something right from home: you can leave a copy at your front door of LHM's *30 Days of Household Devotions* booklet (cost: \$1 each) with a note for each person who makes a drop-off at your house—the Amazon or FedEx driver; grocery store delivery person; the teenager who's bringing the pizzas. Put a copy in your mailbox with a note for your mail-carrier, too.

It doesn't take much to put a smile on someone's face. A quick act of generosity will do the trick. You can pay the toll for the car behind you; leave some quarters in a washer or dryer at your local laundromat with a friendly note; or send some Christmas cards (goodies optional, but welcome) to our troops.

So *that's it!* A little gesture during the holidays to jump start someone's day who may be glum or who's forgotten how special Thanksgiving and Christmas really are.

Check back at the Men's NetWork website in the next couple of weeks for all the details!


www.lhm.org/men

Akour Amany is a Diabetes Paraprofessional Level 1. She is currently looking for a job. At the Jericho Road Health Center, her skills include translating between Arabic, Dinka and English to help patients with making appointments, arranging transportation between patients and hospitals, home and clinic. She also addresses questions with insurance agencies and works with physicians, nurses and patients both in person and over the phone.

Since October 2017, she also provides interpretative services to patients speaking Arabic and Dinka in addressing dietary issues, monitoring and scheduling regular blood sugar checks, the timing of meals and snacks and the importance of making healthy and acceptable food choices using a variety of pictorial graphics as well as translating physician recommendations.

Do you or someone you know have any ideas or knowledge about job openings? She would appreciate any help you could give her. You may contact her at 716-861-9059.





The women of the Buffalo Zone LWML, hosts for the 2021 Retreat, look forward to seeing you at Lutherlyn Camp! You can "visit" Lutherlyn Camp on line at www.lutherlyn.com. District Editor, Bev Wicher will soon send an informational brochure. More information will also be included in the Winter LINK.

SAVE THE DATE!

**For the LWML Eastern
District Retreat!**

September 24-26, 2021

Lutherlyn Camp
500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler, PA 16001



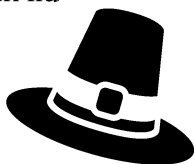
A taste of history

Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt



What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

puzzle

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.

Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.

Cross out all words in column B that end in d.

Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.

Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.

Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.

Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 24TH.