

#### PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

#### (716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

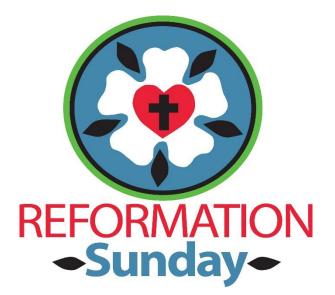
### **OCTOBER 2020**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

EDITOR: Mary Werth

ASSOC. EDITOR:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





Like you, I've been thinking about the Coronavirus and its effect upon us. Here are some other viruses that I also believe are dangerous:

**The virus of fear** – It is one thing to show reasonable caution about a dangerous virus; it's another thing to live one's life in paralyzing fear. We read in Psalm 91: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.<sup>[a] 2</sup> I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." <sup>3</sup> Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

**The virus of hatred** – while there are clearly differences among people there is no room for hatred of others because all are made in the "image of God." Furthermore, the summation of the Law is, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." – Matthew 22:37-40

**The virus of isolation** – The evil behind the Coronavirus is that to avoid it we have to avoid contact with other people. However, to avoid social interaction and involvement with others is not healthy and can lead to many problems down the line. God designed us for community: "The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." – Genesis 2:18; <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. "They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." – Acts 2:42-47, depiction of the Church in Jerusalem.

**The virus of judgment** – We judge one another because someone belongs to the "wrong" political party or has different views about governance and society than we do. However, Jesus warns "*Do not judge, or you too will be judged.* <sup>2</sup> *For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*" – Matthew 7:1-2

These are just some of the "viruses" that come to mind: perhaps you can add others to the list. The only antidote to these viruses is the Gospel, or "Good News", of Jesus Christ. Because of our sin, God could have treated us as a virus and stamped us out of existence. Instead, he gave his very own Son to suffer the punishment, death, and condemnation which we by our sins deserved. Jesus willingly "infected" himself with the "virus" of our sin so that by his death and resurrection we would be cured of this terminal disease.

Jesus' love is infectious. Catch it!



Dianne Weurch	Oct. 2
Frank Alessi	Oct. 10
Kathy Rodgers	Oct. 11
Tegwanda Alford	Oct. 15
Sue Holway	Oct. 18



Oct. 7	Mike & Dianne Weurch
Oct. 10	Lee & Amber Trimmer

### A new call

Noted preacher Will Willimon received a frantic phone call from parents who feared their collegeage daughter was throwing away her life. Asked to intervene, Willimon inquired why she was ending her studies to work with the children of migrant farmers. What had motivated her radical decision?

"It was your sermon yesterday that started me to thinking," she replied. Willimon had talked about how God wants us to do something important with our lives, leading the young woman to choose a new path that would make more impact and hold more meaning. After a long silence, he stammered, "But I was just preaching!"

Willimon was just preaching, and the worshiper was just attending church while home on break. Yet she perceived a change in calling that led to a change in identity, security, priorities — and fulfillment. —adapted from *The Wired Word* 



**ESTHER CIRCLE** 

Our October meeting is Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm on Zoom. We will have a brief business meeting followed by a Bible Study. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

We did a "Thinking of You" mailing outreach consisting of a card, devotional, bookmark and a Portals of Prayer booklet. It touched many hearts during this challenging time.

Please refer to the update flyer on the Terri Lynn nut and candy sale in this issue. Thank you to those that sold and/or purchased items. Your support is appreciated!

REMINDER! Keep the Dash's receipts coming! Give them to Sue Holway. The mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith for LWML mission grants. The cancelled stamps cut with a 1/4 inch frame now go to Sharon McGuan. The old printer ink cartridges go to Pat Watkins.

We pray 🙏 you have a healthy, safe and blessed Autumn. 🥝 🎡

Carol Obot and Sue Holway



As a grandmother, I have had the privilege of babysitting two devastatingly cute little boys. When Damien, now almost 8 years old was about 2 he wanted me to sing a song as I tucked him into bed. So, I taught him "Jesus Loves Me" which he and his brother still love to sing.

I recently read the story of how this famous children's Sunday School song came into being. Over 150 years ago two sisters wrote a novel that became a best seller in its time. Within the book, an upright man and Sunday School teacher is comforting a very sick and dying little boy. The teacher softly sings: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so..." The poem within the story becomes very popular and a couple of years afterward is put to music and in hymn form by a famous composer of the day, William Bradbury

This is so simply put, yet quite profound - Jesus LOVES me! We are all loved and heaven's gates to open wide to all of us someday. What a comfort to the living who love Jesus, and to those who have gone on before us - we know the Lord has welcomed them into His heavenly kingdom.

Keep Singing, Ruth Whitmer

# REMINDER Sale Ends: OCTOBER 14TH



# ALL ORDERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 18TH!! MUST INCLUDE PAYMENT!!!

Cash, Check OR Money Orders – Made payable to ESTHER CIRCLE.

### Return Top Copy & Yellow Copy with Money to: Dianne Wuerch

- Put in my church mailbox
- Mail to my home address
- **Drop off at my home address** You as the Seller, Keep the Pink Copy for your records.

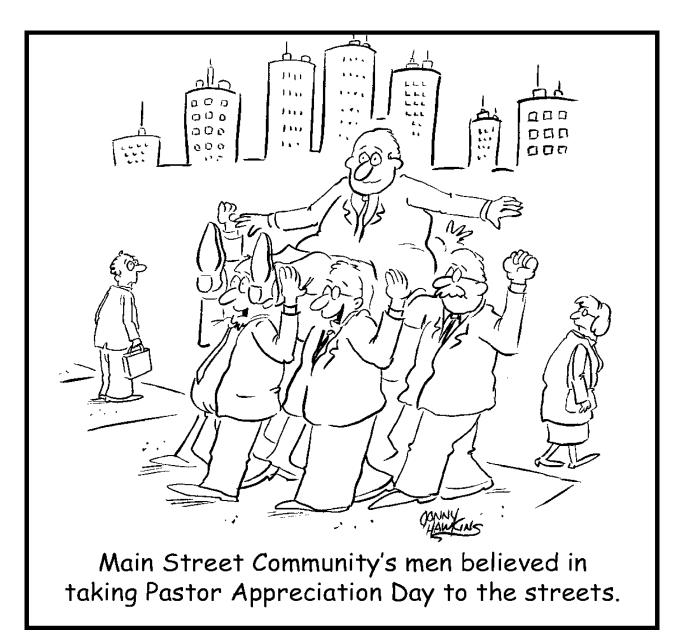
Any questions text or call: Dianne Wuerch **716-481-2599 315 Parkedge Ave. Tonawanda NY 14150** 

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<u>The Buffalo Zone</u> <u>LWML Invites You</u> <u>To a Fall Zoom</u> <u>Event on Nov 7</u>

# Zoom in on Our Zone Bible Study

For your personal Zoom Invite, please email Sharon Wolff at <u>swolff3@rochester.rr.com</u> by 10/30

Agenda: Welcome, Zoom Fellowship, Bible Study and Joyful Singing



November 7, 2020 9-10 am

## <u>Share the Joy of God's Word with Your Children, Grandchildren</u> <u>and Special Children in Your Life</u>

We may not be able to have Sunday school in the church building this fall, but we are excited to share some wonderful materials with our families for use at home with our children, grandchildren and other special children in our lives.

Student books from Concordia's *Growing In Christ* Series have been ordered for all our Early Childhood, Upper Elementary and Middle School students. Each Early Childhood booklet has 13 Old Testament lesson leaflets, featuring a Bible story, craft page, stickers and music CD. The Upper Elementary and Middle School booklets include 13 Old Testament lessons with discussion questions and Bible Exploration Guides. For high school and college students, books are coming your way and we hope you find them interesting and enjoyable.

**Parents and Grandparents: no "Teacher Guides" are needed.** Your prayerful gift of time with your dear child, sharing God's Word with the guidance of the Holy Spirit is all that is needed to make your time together a blessing. Sunday school packets will be available by October 1<sup>st</sup> in the back of the sanctuary in a box marked **Sunday School**. Each family's name will be on their packet. If you do not receive a Sunday school packet and wish to obtain one, please call Sharon McGuan at 716-803-3767.

As for the adults at Pilgrim, Pastor Ben will continue to send scripture verses for the Sunday readings. We hope you are able to read them before you attend church in the sanctuary, or on Zoom. Pastor also is beginning a new Bible study series for the Tuesday Bible study @ 9:30 am on Zoom. Please contact Pastor Ben if you have any questions about receiving a Zoom invitation.

#### "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119: 105

"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16 -17

Sharon McGuan/ September 2020



#### THRED ENCOURAGES, CHALLENGES USERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Lutheran Hour Ministries' popular social media website THRED (<u>thred.org</u>) is building bridges in 2020. In a year simmering with social unrest, a spreading virus, and a looming presidential election upon us, THRED offers an outlet for people to speak their minds openly about life, Jesus, and faith. LHM's launch of THRED three years ago has proven fruitful, and since the outbreak of COVID-19 usage has spiked dramatically.

"THRED's average weekly reach for the first five months of 2020 is 113,271 compared to 39,585 for the same period in 2019," said Rachel Legouté, LHM's digital development manager. "This is a time when people are looking for an encouraging word. How grateful we are to be positioned in a place to share content and conversation with a lost and hurting world in such a time as this. We can use our profiles and online platforms to be voices of hope for those who are taking to the internet with their fears, anxiety, and pain," she added.

Responding to the pandemic, THRED is producing a video series called "Work from Home." It features voices from THRED team members Legouté; Jon Christopher, LHM video editor; and other THRED vloggers. Another helpful resource are the COVID-related blogs written by Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, LHM's regional director for North America. Recent submissions like "Overcoming the Feeling 'I Am Not (Doing) Enough'" and "Making Decisions in a Time of Panic" have resonated widely with readers, causing THRED's blog numbers (interactions) to more than triple since he's starting writing.

These two THRED resources are helping attract interest and build momentum for the website. Also helping is THRED's YouTube channel, "What Jesus Says." Legouté added, "The people we're creating content for are people outside of the church. To best connect with them, we enter conversations by listening to understand. We ask questions to clarify and better engage the person we're speaking with. I tell volunteers our job is to keep the conversation going; you do that by having an open and honest exchange that truly takes an interest in the other person."

THRED welcomes your involvement in its mission, too. Simply visit <u>Ihm.org/pledge</u> and take its Digital Conversation Pledge. You can also become a Digital Conversation Team member. These are people who will serve as trained volunteers to interact with THRED users, providing love, hope, and support. It's another way that THRED is making connections with people on issues that matter in their lives right now.



## HERE ARE OUR "RAINFOREST EXPLORERS"

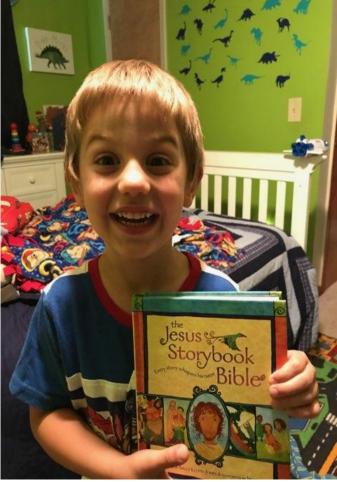
Thank you, Sharon McGuan for making this happen! Thank you, parents and grandparents for exploring with the kids learning that "Jesus Leads The Way"! The happy faces certainly show their LOVE FOR JESUS!



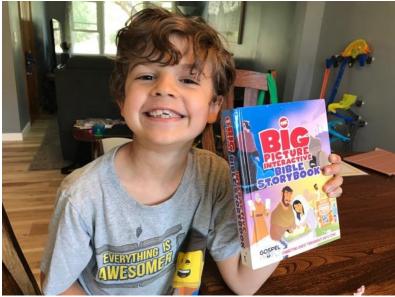














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